

Act 250 commission
water quality subcommittee
meeting minutes 3-15-18

Present: Peter Gregory, Jon Groveman, Seth Jensen, Dianne Snelling, Neil Kamman, Laura DiPietro

Items to follow up:

The committee began the discussion by talking about “definitions” with some feeling that the Commission should review the existing definitions within 250 see that they are accurate with new knowledge about water quality.

A clearer floodplain/river corridor procedure with a cleaner definition of compensatory storage. The current review lends itself to appeal.

The 250 manual chapters that deal with water were updated since 2006/7 and there has been a great deal of water law put in place since those chapters were put into the background document for Act 250. 250 should update the chapters on water and possibly all chapter for all criteria.

Even though 250 relies on ANR, consultants for the applicant and possibly stakeholders, there should be a synch up of the provisions of 250 and provisions at ANR that deal with the same issues since 250 relies on ANR for much of the science.

Groundwater – although there is an ANR protection program 250 still addresses adequacy of supply and there may be a disconnect between the two standards.

Agricultural buffers are inadequate to use in 250 because there are too small, 25 feet when certain developments require more.

Is there a role for 250 in addressing CSOs?

For all of the water centered review there is not a watershed wide review of development throughout the watershed. There seemed to be a feeling that there should be.

Questions to ask the public:

What do we want for Vermont surface and groundwater into the future?

How would you reduce the footprint/impact of development on water through Act 250 review?

Are there water quality/quantity problems that you are aware of – please be specific.

Does development impact water quality?

Next meeting: March 29th Legislative Council meeting room 8 am