

SEN. SETH BONGARTZ, VICE CHAIR  
SEN. SCOTT BECK  
SEN. ROBERT PLUNKETT  
SEN. DAVID WEEKS



REP. TREVOR SQUIRRELL, CHAIR  
REP. MARK HIGLEY  
REP. CAROL ODE  
REP. LARRY SATCOWITZ

## STATE OF VERMONT

### Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR)

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

MINUTES

May 7, 2026

The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules met on Thursday, May 7, 2026, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in Room 11 of the State House Building in Montpelier, Vermont.

The following members were present:

Sen. Seth Bongartz, Vice Chair  
Sen. Scott Beck  
Sen. Robert Plunkett  
Sen. David Weeks

Rep. Trevor Squirrell, Chair  
Rep. Mark Higley  
Rep. Carol Ode  
Rep. Larry Satcowitz

Staff present:

Bradley Showman  
Lindsey Schreier

Committee Counsel  
Committee Assistant

#### **Approval of Prior Minutes**

On motion of Sen. Weeks, the Committee approved the April 30, 2026, minutes.

#### **Review of Rules**

The Committee reviewed the following rules:

**25-P040 - Vermont Wetland Rules.** Misty Sinsigalli, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, and Kevin Burke, Watershed Management Division Director for the Department of Environmental Conservation, explained the rule and answered questions. Catherine Gjessing, General Counsel for the Agency of Natural Resources, was available for questions but did not testify.

Emily Ruff, Executive Director of Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary; Laura Hill-Eubanks, concerned citizen; Nat Shambaugh, Berlin Pond Watershed Association; Brendan Deso, manufactured home retailer; Josh Jerome, Executive Director of Barre Area Development Inc.;

and Jon Groveman, Policy and Water Program Director for the Vermont Natural Resources Council, also testified on the rule.

This rule amendment updates the Vermont Wetland Rules to support and accelerate housing development in designated growth areas and incorporates additional wetland protections required pursuant to 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 121. This amendment would permit construction of residential housing in unmapped Class II wetlands and at least 25 feet from mapped Class II wetlands. This amendment also removes the reconsideration process for denied permits as a step before seeking appeal.

Due to time constraints, the Committee continued consideration of this rule to the May 14, 2026, meeting.

**Adjournment and Next Meeting**

The Committee adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for May 14, 2026, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in Room 11 of the State House Building in Montpelier, Vermont.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Showman  
Committee Counsel

cc: APA Clerk, Secretary of State  
ICAR, Agency of Administration