

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 14, 2026

The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules met on Thursday, May 14, 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. Bongartz, the Committee approved the May 7, 2026, minutes.

Review of Rules

The Committee reviewed the following rules:

25-P040 - Vermont Wetland Rules. Zapata Courage, resident of Ripton; Dale Azaria, Conservation Law Foundation; and Karina Dailey, Science and Restoration Director for the Vermont Natural Resources Council, testified on the rule.

This rule is continued from the April 30, May 7, and May 14 meetings. 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 the 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.

Rep. Squirrell made a statement regarding a potential objection to the rule. Rep. Squirrell asked Committee Counsel to draft a memo outlining a potential objection to the rule and circulate it to the Committee in advance of the Committee's next meeting. The Committee continued consideration of the rule to May 21, 2026.

25-P045 - Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules. Laura Dlugolecki, Lakes and Ponds Policy and Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Environmental Conservation, and Saige Culbertson, Associate General Counsel for the Watershed Management Division of the Department of Environmental Conservation, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

Others who testified on the rule were: Meg Handler, Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes; Shane Switser, concerned citizen; and Rodney Putnam, concerned citizen.

This rule amendment proposes to clarify procedures for the State to delegate authority to a municipality to regulate the use of public waters and to establish a process for emergency temporary use restrictions and clarifies enforcement of aquatic invasive species transport and decontamination requirements. This amendment prohibits wakesports within 500 feet of an individual in the water or another vessel. This amendment also modifies wakesports provisions by removing the "home lake" rule, prohibiting wakesports within 500 feet of loon nesting sites, and requiring wakesports zones to meet new configuration standards. This amendment reduces the number of wakesports-eligible lakes from 30 to 18.

Due to time constraints, the Committee continued consideration of this rule to the May 21, 2026, meeting.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The Committee adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for May 21, 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