

Lake Champlain Steering Committee Meeting

January 22, 2008

Holiday Inn, Plattsburgh, VT

9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Steering Committee Members Present: Betsy Lowe *Chair*, Dave Tilton, Jane Gregware (for Ron Jackson), Marilyn Stephenson, Mike Latham, Gina Campoli, Judy Doerner, John Kruger, Kenny Miller, Erik Beck, Bob Reinhardt, John Sayles, Buzz Hoerr, Randy Beach, Real Pelletier, and Jean-Pierre Laniel **Staff:** Bill Howland, Colleen Hickey, Jim Brangan, Nicole Ballinger, Molly Michaud, Meg Modley, Kathy Jarvis, Rich Wagner, Martin Mimeault, Michaela Stickney, Kris Joppe-Mercure, Art Stemp **Guests:** Therese LaCombe, Pierre Bilodeau

Welcome:

Betsy Lowe, chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Action Item: *John Sayles moved to approve the draft minutes of the October 31, 2007 Steering Committee meeting as presented; Dave Tilton seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Update on State of the Lake 2008 & Ecosystem Indicators Scorecard:

Molly presented a status report on the *State of the Lake - Ecosystem Indicators Scorecard* project and circulated a draft report outline. The new report will be generally similar to the 2005 report, but will feature indicators in the pressure/state/response model. She also reviewed the timeline for text, design, printing and public release at the end of June. Nicole noted that the new *State of the Lake* will increase in size to 32 pages. She showed some of the draft graphics that will be included and the Steering Committee noted its approval of the approach.

John suggested including a sidebar box in *Opportunities for Action* to recognize the potential importance of climate. Molly noted that the report can discuss climate change as a developing pressure. Betsy recommended including the carbon footprint of the Basin in the revision of *Opportunities for Action*.

The score card will rank and score indicators for each of the five lake segments. TAC will discuss the scores later this spring, and these results will be shared with the Steering Committee prior to publication. Bill emphasized the Executive and Steering Committee will have an opportunity for full editorial review of the content of the State of the Lake report prior to its publication.

Update on Opportunities for Action:

Bill introduced the Steering Committee's second mark-up session to establish the scope of the revisions needed in *Opportunities for Action*. The purpose of the day is to identify what needs to be changed rather than to determine how the changes should be worded. The staff and advisory committees will address the changes needed and return to the Executive and Steering Committees with proposed new plan language.

Planning session - *Opportunities for Action:*

The Steering Committee then reviewed the notes from the October, 2007 and concluded:

1. The revised plan must address phosphorus reduction needs in target areas, such as St Albans Bay watershed.
2. Action #5 (OFA p.19) is just like #4 (OFA p.49) concerning expansion of buffers and protection of streams and wetlands; these should be combined
3. The Steering Committee should consider different scenarios that influence management decisions; acknowledging factors like economics, population pressures, increased regulation, potential community build-out to capacity, and climate change.
4. The Committee felt that a statement about climate change and how to address it should be featured in the Introduction. Then each subsequent section should have a sidebar to highlight how changes will impact that section and how to mitigate the problem.
5. More effective phosphorus accounting and crediting is needed.
6. Aquatic Nuisance Species objectives should be revised to emphasize early detection, spread prevention, and rapid response.
7. Sea lamprey management should be moved to the Fish and Wildlife section.
8. Human Health and Toxic prevention should be in a single section.
9. Improved Lake access for seniors and people with limited mobility is important.
10. The International Border as an unnecessarily difficult barrier should be noted

Farm Award Recognitions

Colleen noted reported the review team's nominations for agricultural awards:

1. **Remillards Farm**, Peru, NY, is a third generation medium-size dairy CAFO in the Little Ausable River watershed. It has developed best management practices that are a model in the region. The farm has become a destination for educational tour groups
2. **Vermont: Monument Farms** in Weybridge, VT, overlooking the Lemon Fair where it meets the Otter Creek is a third generation operation with a strong focus on wildlife habitat restoration and best management practices of special benefit to wildlife.
3. **Ferme des Colombettes** in St-Alexandre, QC participates in Quebec's windbreak and buffer programs as well as the local Farmers Club for the region. The farm has worked closely with the Quebec Ministry of the Environment on nutrient management planning.

Action Item: *Dave Tilton moved to accept the award recommendations of the review team; Bob Reinhardt seconded the motion. Erik mentioned that need to make sure no federal regulation issues pertained to these recipients. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

Following lunch, the Steering Committee met in breakout groups to consider the scope of revisions needed in several remaining sections of *Opportunities for Action:*

- *Chapter Three: Managing Fish and Wildlife*
- *Chapter Three: Protecting and Restoring Wetlands, Streams and Riparian Habitats*
- *Chapter Four: Protecting Cultural Heritage Resources*

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30 PM