

**Lake Champlain Basin Program
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 7, 2010**

Final Meeting Summary

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION – CLOSED TO PUBLIC

- a. Critical Source Area proposal summary review
- b. Internal Phosphorus loading proposal summary review
- c. Exit Executive Session
- d. Motion on Internal Phosphorus Loading ROD: Doug: move to forward the Draft Record of Decision to the Steering Committee for approval. Neil second. All in favor. No abstentions.
- e. Motion on Critical Source Area ROD: Doug: move to forward the Draft Record of Decision to the Steering Committee for approval. Martin M. second. All in favor. Neil abstained.

II. Updates and Announcements

- a. Lake Champlain conference planning is moving forward, registration is now open, schedule is online.
- b. Richard Lauzier is awarding the Ag awards for Quebec to a small farm in Notre-Dame de Stanbridge
- c. Morpion Stream – agronomist will work with clubs in this area on BMP implementation over next 2 years
- d. Sea lamprey management meeting to review application of 2008 TFM treatment on Missisquoi River
- e. MOU between Quebec, VT, NY for management of Lake Champlain has been signed.
- f. Spiny waterflea report – feasibility study of spiny waterflea moving from Sacandaga to Champlain; concluded that overland transport is most likely vector. Barrier options are not feasible. Recommended education and outreach and targeted rapid response if SWF appears in canal.
- g. Act 46 in VT has passed, making it illegal to move aquatic plants overland in Vermont.
- h. Transport law in NY is in draft form, hopefully will move forward in next year or two.
- i. The Québec Research Program in Missisquoi Bay for BGA will be closed this year to publish the report summarizing the 2001-2008 monitoring. The monitoring risk evaluation program for BGA and toxin production will continue.

III. Summary of Previous TAC Meeting

- a. Review and approval of minutes from March 3 TAC meeting.
 - i. Move to accept as amended. Vic P., Dave F, all in favor.

IV. Lake Champlain Basin Program Update, *Bill Howland*

- a. Nicole Ballinger has left the LCBP. Has been working at LCBP for over 10 years and has begun working for Efficiency Vermont in their marketing department.
- b. Adaptive management hire is moving forward for temporary employee.
- c. March 23 Executive Committee meeting
 - i. CVNHP management plan review
 - ii. OFA target dates - signature date is end of September; complete draft to Executive Committee in July.
- d. Boat launch steward program is moving forward for 2010 season, several returnees from 2009 season.
- e. IJC projects
 - i. Hydrographic dataset harmonization meeting in Quebec March 16-17, 2010.
 1. Follow up meeting in early Fall 2010 to resolve watershed and other hydrographic boundary issues across borders.
 - ii. Critical Source Area – Record of Decision will be approved at next Executive meeting

- f. FY10 budget status
 - i. Still needs approval by Steering Committee, still waiting for approval for GLFC funded projects
- g. Draft workplans for FY10 are in place for LCBP staff; are exploring additional technical staff options.
- h. AEP settlement - \$400,000 in grants for BMPs in agricultural sectors of South lake region.
 - i. RFP for this project will be developed by representatives from NY and VT agencies of Agriculture and conservation.
- i. Internal Phosphorus loading ROD to be approved by Steering Committee on April 8
- j. Critical Source Area ROD to be reviewed and approved by IJC study board then it will go to Exec committee for approval on April 13.

V. Long Term Monitoring Program update

- a. New structure/format of the LTMP, Bill Howland
 - i. Changes on NY side of the monitoring program.
 - 1. NY monitoring will be done by SUNY Plattsburgh, with oversight by Fred Dunlap (NY DEC).
- b. 2009 Annual Report, *Eric Smeltzer, VT DEC*
 - i. Provided review of structure of annual report for this project, and reviewed the major points of the 2009 report
 - ii. Biological database – phytoplankton and zooplankton data are online.
 - iii. Documentation of new invasive species: will continue to report to ANS subcommittee on species that were identified in biological samples (phyto and zooplankton)
- c. 2010 Workplan and QAPP, *Fred Dunlap, NY DEC*
 - i. 2010 field project will be same as previous years, except work will be done by SUNY Plattsburgh and Lake Champlain Research Institute. NYS DEC will still be responsible for coordinating data management, QC analyses, etc. SUNY will be subcontracting solely for field work. Adding in silica and suite of earth metals as part of the 5 year rotation on these parameters. Continue to monitor 21 tributaries around Basin, all of which are gaged. Most significant tributary that is unmonitored is LaChute River.
- d. Discussion about zebra mussel veliger sampling
 - i. Sampling in broad lake is limited to northeast arm and Missisquoi Bay - is this project providing valuable information to the program?
 - 1. data are summarized, produced to the website, but minimally used
 - 2. might be good to develop criteria to decide when to stop monitoring for veligers relative to data that are produced from this project.
 - 3. Charge for next year: develop criteria for aspects of this monitoring program that could be better utilized
 - ii. Net tows for spiny waterflea in Champlain canal will be continued
 - iii. Motion to approve workplan as amended to include a review of the zebra mussel monitoring data during 2010 and consider the benefits and rationale for continuing this effort in the future. The findings and recommendations from this evaluation will be reported in the April 2011 annual report by Neil K., Doug F. second, discussion: All in favor, Neil K., Eric S., Fred D. abstain.

VI. Portable Skidder Bridge presentation

- a. *Gary Sabourin, VT FPR*, will provide some background on the portable skidder bridge initiative
- b. Gary provided some background information on NPS pollution in logging operations and the VT portable skidder bridge initiative
- c. Reviewed AMPs (VT version of BMP) and acceptable temporary crossing structures
 - i. Culverts, bridges, poled fords, at-grade stream fords, brush (winter only)
- d. Three main elements to the initiative:
 - i. Environmental awareness and economic benefits to logging projects
 - ii. Increase availability to loggers

- iii. Building capacity by working with private sector to expand accessibility
- iv. Environmental advantages – limited impact to tributary, fish passage
- e. Economic advantages - reusable (3-5 year lifespan), easily installed, transported, and manufactured
- f. Vision is to ultimately move this project into the private sector
- g. Cost approximately \$1500 for materials, up to \$2500 total (incl. labor)
- h. Free loan and education program, initiated in 2009
 - i. Developed to transfer technology to loggers, sawmills, landowners
 - ii. Program funded by EPA 319 grant which is now complete
 - iii. Open throughout VT side of Champlain valley
 - iv. Hired a coordinator for the program, which was critical to expanding the program
- i. Rental program, initiated in 2007
 - i. Administered by NRCDs, rental fee is \$100/month, to cover bridge replacement costs
 - ii. In Lamoille and Rutland regions in 2007, 2009 expanded to Windham, Winooski, Caledonia/Essex, 2010 to Bennington
 - 1. Enforcement settlement funds used to help initiate these programs
 - iii. Conduct educational workshops for loggers, students, consultants
- j. LCBP funding proposal will support construction of 8 bridges to be built and delivered staging sites in NY, and support for program coordinator (in NY); also technical assistance in rental program for loggers, and continuation of the VT Free Loan program through 2011.
 - i. Program has been received very well by participating loggers
 - ii. Some sawmills in VT are building their own skidder bridges and provide them to their suppliers
 - iii. To be profitable, needs to be built on large-scale and wide distribution capability

VII. Technical Tasks update

- a. Review of the stormwater utility technical task description, *Michaela Stickney, VT ANR/LCBP*
 - i. VT DEC is creating a regional stormwater utility to plan for and fund TMDLs for impaired tributaries
 - ii. This project would provide a utility business plan and outline steps the community would need to go through to create their utility
 - iii. Will go out as an RFP in fall and run through 2011.
 - iv. Discussion focused primarily around whether or not the municipalities would buy into this project; if not, then the project would likely fail.
 - v. Motion to suggest project be divided into 2 phases:
 - 1. Motion by Deb P., second by Neil K: all in favor, abstain: Neil K., Mike W.
 - 2. The motion reads as: LCBP funds will be allocated once the following deliverables have been completed:
 - Identify how the municipalities will interact with each other
 - Identify similarities and differences between the municipalities
 - Identify political barriers across the area for working through and adopting a utility
 - Identify of major roadblocks and evidence that these barriers can be overcome

VIII. Workplan review for 2010 field season

- a. FY 2010 technical tasks
 - i. BGA monitoring - no significant changes to this workplan from the 2009 project
 - ii. Motion to approve workplan: Doug F., Vic P., all in favor. Mike W. abstained.

IX. Opportunities for Action Update

- a. F&W – Bill Ardren reviewed progress on this chapter. Introductory text is in development, will be reviewed by the working group. Full draft will be provided to TAC for May meeting.
- b. Eric H provided updates on Toxics, ANS, Phosphorus, Climate change, Economics chapters
- c. Per request of TAC, Eric will circulate current drafts to TAC

X. Adjourn

TAC: Mike Winslow, Neil Kamman, Kip Potter, Bill Ardren, Jamie Shanley, Vic Putman, Laura DiPietro, Martin Mimeault, Deb Perry, Doug Facey, John Kanoza, Eric Smeltzer, Dave Franzi, Marilyn Stephenson, Fred Dunlap

LCBP: Eric Howe, Bill Howland, Nicole Grohoski, Meg Modley, Michaela Stickney (LCBP/VT ANR)

Public: David Borthwick-Leslie, Drew Snell (CWICNY), Gary Sabourin (VT FPR)