

**Lake Champlain Basin Program
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 2, 2010**

Final Meeting Summary

- I. 10:00 AM EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- a. FY10 Draft RFP review: Rock River Targeted Watershed Initiative
- II. 10:30 AM EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
- a. Motion to appoint a TAC Subcommittee to evaluate the proposal reviews and draft a Record of Decision for the Roadside Drainage Network RFP and the Climate Change Adaptation RFP by Marilyn S., second by Bernie P., all in favor, no abstentions.
 - b. Motion to approve the draft Rock River Targeted Watershed Initiative RFP as amended by Doug F., Bernie P., all in favor, Kip P. and Laura D. abstain.
- III. Updates and Announcements**
- a. NRCS funded a large CAFO operation in southern part of Lake Champlain watershed, nearly \$300K for complete agriculture waste management systems in the Halfway Brook watershed through EQIP program. There should be rapid implementation this summer, and may be a possible site visit for TAC members.
 - b. Upcoming Lake Champlain Conference, June 7-8 at University of Vermont. Over 140 people are currently registered.
 - c. Keith Robinson (USGS) will host a Lake Champlain long term water quality monitoring discussion after the first day of the Lake Champlain Conference.
 - d. The VT Legislature has approved \$1.5 million for agriculture BMP program, with an allowance to pay up to 90% of project costs for most practices.
 - e. VT AAFM is doing inspections with EPA & VT DEC on about 10 farms, both MFOs and LFOs.
 - f. VT AAFM and NRCS-VT developed a ranking tool that prioritizes fields that are more susceptible to runoff and erosion entering a waterbody. The period for cover crop applications closes on August 1st.
 - g. Approximately 400 traps for emerald ash borer are now in place around VT. More information is on the VT AAFM website. Most of the traps are in state parks because that is where firewood is moved around.
 - h. NY has a firewood ban of 50 miles from the place of purchase. Documentation of place of purchase of firewood is required. DEC road blocks have been set up in the past.
 - i. Morpion stream project with 50 farmers implementing BMPs and IRDA will do follow up with water quality testing.
 - j. Climate Change Center in Montreal will study Rock River with a research focus on geomorphologic projects and effects of climate change.
 - k. A new project will establish 4km of buffers on Lake Champlain to improve the shoreline buffer and the watershed group will get funds from HydroQuébec to do the work.
 - l. The Green Buffers project that Richard L. presented is complete and the farmers are keeping the buffers.

- m. Blue green algae blooms occurring in Waterloo, Quebec. May 17th saw a high density bloom that did have some cyanobacteria.
- n. Essex Sewer – contractors mobilizing soon. Construction complete next fall
- o. Willsboro treatment plant – Wolostonite treatment cells to adsorb P in place.
- p. NRCS-VT received \$883,000 in forestry initiatives under the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program, accepting applications statewide
- q. ADK PRISM – Adirondack Forum on AIS August 10-11.
- r. Confirmation of didymo in Gihon River in Johnson, VT.
- s. Spring 2010 seining for walleye yielded highest walleye catch rates since the 1980s.
- t. From the walleye seining, VT DFW had first documentation of Chinese mystery snails in Lake Champlain, although have been in the Basin for a while.
- u. Senator Leahy’s office has been active over the last few months at the Steering Committee level to refine the FY10 funding from the GLFC and will be finalized at the Steering Committee meeting next week. Many more resources will be available for a competitive grants program.
- v. The Northwest RPC has received a grant from VT Fish and Wildlife to complete the Missisquoi Basin Plan. That plan was drafted in 2008 but has not moved forward since Barry Gruessner left ANR. NRPC will be reconvening the Missisquoi Council probably sometime in late summer. Please let Deb Perry know if there are any relevant updates from previous contributions to the plan.

IV. Summary of Previous TAC Meeting

- a. Review and approval of minutes from May 5 TAC meeting.
- b. Motion to approve by Ed S., second by Martin M., all in favor.

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

- a. AEP update – RFP development for the American Electric Power Funds is moving forward; this project will be overseen by a specially designated review committee, per the contractual agreement with NYS and VT Attorneys General.
- b. Meteorological monitoring workplans (for Lake stations and the long-term atmospheric mercury deposition station in Underhill, VT); TAC needs to review the workplans
 - i. Future funding options may come through NOAA
 - ii. TAC oversight – Motion by Eric S., second by Doug F., all in favor to allow Eric H. to review and approve the two meteorological workplans to ensure that they follow the procedures that have been used historically.

VI. OFA Chapter review

TAC reviewed and provided final comments on the following OFA chapters:

- a. Toxics & Human Health – suggestions regarding some examples, language in introductory text
- b. Climate Change – suggested incorporating more than just TNC abstract; Doug Facey offered to help with this
- c. ANS – this chapter has been through a major overhaul, structurally, since TAC last saw this. TAC provided comments on introductory text and revised tasks.

VII. 2010-2011 TAC season

- a. Request for presenter suggestions for upcoming meetings – Eric will circulate email requesting presenter ideas
- b. FY11/12 budget process
 - i. Bill provided overview of draft plan to facilitate budgeting priorities communication between Steering Committee and TAC
 - ii. TAC Suggestions –
 1. Legislative needs should be coordinate between NY & VT where both states are doing similar projects; for example, baitfish transportation.
 2. Ranking projects based on percentages instead of real dollar amounts can be challenging; might want to identify a better system
 3. Ability to rank projects within task areas is more effective than ranking and comparing projects among task areas
 4. Recommend moving the budgeting schedule up in the calendar year to better align with Federal Fiscal Year deadlines
 5. Recommend moving BGA monitoring into DOH budgets and out of LCBP budget. LCBP should work with DOH to move this into their FY12 budgets.
 6. Local Implementation Grants – split AIS and PP apart into separate categories
- c. Membership needs
 - i. Modeling background, especially nutrient modeling
 - ii. In-lake physical processes/hydrodynamics
 - iii. Eric will summarize current TAC membership for September meeting
 - iv. Exploring restructuring TAC toward subcommittee expertise
 1. Suggestions: Quarterly TAC meetings with monthly subcommittee meetings?
 2. Executive TAC committee with “chairs” from subcommittees?
- d. Other business
 - i. Question about Transmission Development Incorporated of Canada – initial proposal is to only go down the NY side of the lake. LCBP will not be providing testimony, opinion, or participation in discussion of this line due to Steering Committee members
 - ii. NY CAC may sponsor more public meetings with the developer

Attendance:

TAC: Mike Winslow (Chair), Bill Ardren, Bernie Pientka, Jamie Shanley, Eric Smeltzer, Kip Potter, Laura DiPietro, Ed Snizek, Vic Putman, Fred Dunlap, Marilyn Stephenson, Doug Facey, Martin Mimeault, Mario Paula

LCBP: Bill Howland, Eric Howe, Meg Modley, Nicole Grohoski

Other: Tom Berry, David Borthwick-Leslie