

**Lake Champlain Basin Program
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 5, 2011**

FINAL Meeting Summary

I. Updates and Announcements

- a. Deb Perry has taken a job with the Institute for Sustainable Communities. Congratulations to her!
- b. The VT Water Quality Division held a public forum on December 20, 2010 to introduce the new surface water management strategy (<http://www.vtwaterquality.org/swms.html>)
- c. The Bob Hirsch/Laura Medalie project exploring new trend analyses for the tributary monitoring data is moving forward. A manuscript was submitted to the Special Issue in Journal of Great Lakes Research summarizing this work.
- d. New VT ANR appointments: Deb Markowitz, ANR Secretary; Patrick Berry, VT FWD Commissioner, David Mears, VT DEC Commissioner, Justin Johnson, Deputy DEC Commissioner; Mike Snyder, VT FPR Commissioner.
- e. Andrew Cuomo is now the new governor in NY – no APA changes yet. Interpretive Centers have been closed due to budget cuts. Joe Martens (currently Acting NYS DEC Commissioner) will be the new Commissioner. Joe is also the past chair of ORDA & ALSC, affiliated with APA as well.
- f. NRCS: Two national grant programs are open and accepting applications – AWEP (Agricultural Water Enhancement Program) and CCPI (Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative). A CCPI proposal for Rock River may be submitted.
- g. NEAPMS (Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society) meeting is January 17-19, 2010 in New Hampshire.
- h. Bob Brower introduced himself from NY AG & Markets. Ag & Markets is down several positions. Bob is filling in for Steve Lanthier for now. Bob has been working on CAFO issues, covers Washington to Oswego counties.
- i. Clinton Co., NY held their first WQCC in a while in Dec.
- j. Laurentian Aerospace in Plattsburgh announced that they are constructing a new maintenance facility that will provide heavy maintenance for wide-body aircraft, located at the Plattsburgh International Airport.
- k. Paul Smith's College was awarded a \$200,000 grant to expand their boat launch steward program to the Great Lakes. Will involve hiring 15 seasonal stewards for western part of the Adirondacks.

II. Summary of Previous TAC Meeting

- a. Review and approval of minutes from December 1st TAC meeting.
- b. Motion to approve by Neil K, seconded by Mike Winslow as amended. All in favor.

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

- a. Bill provided an overview of the Steering Committee meeting held on December 14, 2010. Steering Committee members reviewed the TAC list of tasks that had been discussed over previous TAC meetings. There was some discussion about the importance of adaptive management tasks in the technical budget. These tasks were reviewed and discussed by the adaptive management committee on December 17, and amended tasks were provided to the TAC for discussion and voting at the January 5, 2011 TAC meeting.

- b. The FY11 budget will likely be slightly above baseline funding this year. Probably between \$1.5 – 2 million total, which will primarily cover LCBP administrative costs and the Long-term Monitoring Program.
- c. Priorities of LCBP will be to maintain staffing at current level, continue the long term monitoring program and other annual projects.
- d. Proposed FY11 tasks that are not funded will be provided to Senator Leahy’s office for FY12 possible tasks.

IV. OFA 2010 Online demonstration, Eric Howe

- a. Eric Howe provided a review of the new Opportunities for Action 2010 website (<http://plan.lcbp.org/>) that went live at the end of last month.
- b. TAC provided some constructive thoughts on the new website, including:
 - i. Possibility of an rss feed. This may be considered once the site is fully active and tasks are updated.
 - ii. Standalone application for contractors for reporting requirements. This possibility will be explored with the OFA online contractor.
 - iii. Suggested removing the incomplete task indicators (red dots in task status column) until most tasks have been updated.

V. FY11 Technical Budget Discussion

- a. Bill Howland reviewed the remaining steps of the FY11 LCBP budget process
- b. TAC-prioritized technical tasks will be provided to the Steering Committee for consideration during their meeting in Québec during the Jan 20-21, 2011 meeting.
- c. TAC will review and discuss the concept proposals that were developed for consideration for funding in FY11.
- d. Tasks identified by TAC today will be provided to the LCBP Executive Committee for consideration tomorrow.

VI. TAC FY11 Budget Task Ranking Exercise

- a. TAC members ranked each of the proposed concept ideas for funding priority in the FY11 LCBP budget (aka “the sticky dot exercise”). TAC ranked the proposed tasks within 2 categories: discrete projects and annual/recurring projects. The rankings are provided in the following two tables (note that tasks are NOT prioritized within the same # of votes):

DISCRETE PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION	Suggested funding level	Votes (sticky dots)
Lake Champlain Long-term monitoring program	\$260,000	n/a
Water Quality Monitoring for the Rock River Targeted Watershed Implementation Initiative	\$20,000	n/a
Aquatic Habitat connectivity & improvement grants	\$150,000	13
Ecosystem Indicator Database to Support Adaptive Management Process	\$200,000	11
Rural Roads Inventory and Assessment / Database Development	\$100,000	11
Determine Impacts of Invasive Alewife on Occurrence of Thiamine Deficiency Complex in Lake Champlain Native Fishes	\$200,000	11
Support to continue a VTDEC/TNC water chestnut management partnership	\$197,000	11
Lake Champlain Ecosystem Services Assessment	\$70,000	11
Urban Area Stormwater Infrastructure Mapping/Assessment/Implementation	\$200,000	10
USGS Stream Gage Network	\$85,000	10
Water Quality Impacts of Tile Drainage and Ditching in Agricultural Fields	\$100,000	7
Assess potential usefulness of local stormwater utilities for communities throughout the basin.	\$50,000	7
Evaluation of the relative importance of wash-off and channel erosion in stormflow phosphorus loadings in the Lake Champlain Basin	\$200,000	6
Potential Phosphorus Storage of Restored Wetlands	\$100,000	6
Reducing Municipal Road Salt and Sand Usage for Winter Maintenance with Salt Brine Technology	\$80,000	5
Policy analysis of LCB Programs	\$70,000	4
Lake Champlain monitoring data analysis	\$45,000	3
Greenstreets and Low Impact Development	\$75,000	3
Workshop on Use of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for Implementation of Pollution Control Projects in the Lake Champlain Watershed	\$20,000	2
Streambank restoration projects	\$100,000	2
Economic impact of future AIS threats to the Lake Champlain basin	\$100,000	0

ANNUAL/RECURRING PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION	Suggested funding level	Votes (sticky dots)
Support to continue a VTDEC/TNC water chestnut management partnership	\$ 197,000	11
USGS Stream Gage Network	\$84,000	10
LCBP Boat Launch Steward program	\$ 60,000	n/a
Coordinate monitoring of blue-green algae blooms through 2011 and work to move monitoring responsibility to jurisdictional partners by 2015.	\$ 120,000	n/a

Note that TAC did not vote on boat launch stewards, blue-green algae, or the LTMP as these tasks were deemed to be ongoing projects that should be prioritized by the Steering Committee, rather than TAC. The water chestnut project was included in the voting process because of the substantial increase in the FY11 funding request.

Attendance:

TAC: Breck Bowden, Neil Kamman, Jamie Shanley, Kip Potter, Dave Franz, Ed Snizek, Vic Putman, John Kanoza, Fred Dunlap, Doug Facey, Eric Smeltzer, Mike Winslow, Bernie Pientka, Marilyn Stephenson, Bill Ardren, Jon Erickson, Mark Malchoff, Martin Mimeault, Deb Perry

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

Guests: David Borthwick-Leslie (public), Drew Snell (CWICNY), Bob Brower (NY AG & Markets)