

**Lake Champlain Basin Program
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 8, 2011
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

FINAL TAC Meeting Summary

I. Updates and Announcements

- a. The NRCS Regional Chief is in VT touring around this week. America's Great Outdoors Program – NRCS has set aside EQIP funds (VT will receive \$800,000). Working with US Forest Service, private sector, other partners to implement this funding.
- b. Clinton County - People returning to their homes now that the lake is receding. People assessing their homes for flood damage, incl. structural and mold/mildew, inspecting wells. Wells will need to be pumped, disinfected, tested for bacteria. Mosquito calls are increasing, from people looking for spraying for control. Spraying will not occur until confirmation of West Nile or other diseases.
- c. Asian Clam in Lake George – all 800 benthic mats are now installed. Some maintenance will be required over the next several months.
- d. USGS gages are now funded through September 2011.
- e. NY State grants programs contracts are in development – Essex Co. stormwater retrofit projects, Chazy project, Willsboro black ash project
- f. VT DEC Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) grants ended up with \$2.5M appropriation in SFY12 capital bill. Same funding proposed for SFY13.
- g. Colchester causeway across outer Malletts Bay was substantially damaged during the flood; will need to be rebuilt. Perhaps VT should consider installing some pedestrian bridges here to increase flow between Malletts Bay and the main lake
- h. TMDL workshop held at UVM on June 7; interesting discussion about Chesapeake Bay TMDL.
- i. GLFC-funded CREP position was refilled with Michelle Smith, who had been working with FSA for several years on CREP program. Should be a good fit for this position.
- j. Joint Crossborder workshop on sustainability at McGill on June 11. Will include McGill Faculty of Law and VT Law School, dealing with different projects over the border.
- k. Oct 3&4 Québec River Management conference, includes the same group doing research on Rock River.
- l. VT Water Resources Center will be fully funded in FY11 (for 2011/2012 project year). Will fund Don Ross P project in Riparian sediments, others, and VT DEC project on ADCP on Rock River to look at TSS and TP, so this project will be fully funded. All Water Center Funding will end in FY12.

II. Summary of Previous TAC Meeting

- a. Review and approval of minutes from May 4th TAC meeting.
- b. Motion to approve the May 4th minutes as amended by Doug F., second by Eric S., all in favor.

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

- a. FY11 EPA budget will be approximately \$3 million. Will be funding LTMP, fully fund the USGS stream gage project, water chestnut, ecosystem indicator/adaptive management, Blue-green algae, urban stormwater, boat launch stewards, NY pilot of Better Backroads, Lake Champlain Ecosystem Services assessment, and aquatic connectivity and habitat improvement grants. The alewife project approved by the Steering Committee will likely be funded through the GLFC allocation when it is finalized.

- b. Nicole Grohoski will be leaving LCBP on June 10 to work with the Northern Forest Canoe Trail in Maine. Many thanks to Nicole for all of her great work during her time with LCBP.
- c. Lake level is beginning to subside, is now down to 101.7 feet. LCBP has assembled a website (<http://www.lcbp.org/2011Flood.htm>) with a powerpoint presentation to inform the public of impacts of the flood. TAC members should take a look at the website and powerpoint and please provide thoughts and comments.
- d. NYS, VT, and Québec are all sampling for coliform bacteria to ensure recreational safety levels around the Lake.
 - i. Suggestion: coordinate the *E. coli* data basinwide – this is a good opportunity for LCBP to coordinate these monitoring data.
- e. Adaptive management funding - \$275,000 in FY11 EPA budget. Still determining how this list of projects will be implemented, but will reflect the priorities listed by the Adaptive Management Workgroup and TAC. The project(s) may be sole sourced, or by RFP. The list of targeted tasks generated by the Adaptive Management workgroup will need to be fully developed, and reviewed by TAC and approved by the Steering Committee. LCBP will bring the task description back to TAC for their review, once the AM workgroup has assembled the description of each of the tasks.
 - i. Suggestion: this funding should be used to implement the list of projects, not to continue development of the adaptive management plan (we already have funding in place to develop the plan).
- f. TAC thanks Nicole for the terrific work she has done with the LCBP. Nicole thanked the TAC for working patiently with her and responding to her requests for OFA online and other projects.

IV. Lake Champlain Toxins Management Subcommittee update

- a. Neil Kamman (VT ANR), Chair of the Toxins subcommittee, provided an overview of the history of the Toxins Management Strategy and an update on the status of the Lake Champlain Toxic Substance Management Strategy
- b. This project was initiated as part of an earlier OFA plan
- c. John Kanoza has been talking to DEC wastewater department to fill in some information gaps for NYS
- d. Eric Howe will circulate a draft electronically to TAC in early July, with comments incorporated from TAC

V. NYS Ag BMP tracking report review (2006-2010 data); *Drew Snell (CWICNY) and Bob Brower (NYS AG & Markets)*

- a. Comments from TAC:
 - i. The segment tracking totals are deceiving, as they are double counting the animal units across BMPs. Recommend removing this row (Segment totals) so people don't use this total incorrectly. Also recommend providing cost per pound of P production column at end of table.
 - ii. There was significant discussion around the application and interpretation of the coefficients. Everyone recognized that the coefficients are outdated and inaccurate, but that this information was the best available at this time, and that this is a problem beyond the scope of this project. This could also send the wrong message to producers who would be implementing the BMPs, in that we can't really say how effective the BMPs are, and why they should implement them. Ultimately, the TAC recommended that the report should emphasize that the BMPs help retain phosphorus on the landscape rather than reduce phosphorus in the tributary or lake. The report should provide all of the coefficients and source them so they can be tracked in the future.

- b. Motion by Doug Facey to approve the report provided the following amendments are made:
- i. TAC motion: Need to clearly emphasize that the phosphorus is retained on the farm, not reduced from tributary loadings. Report should clearly indicate the danger of using the P data. Change all phosphorus reduction language to retention on farm and keep the caveat asterisk as provided in previous Ag BMP reports. In the tables, remove the TMDL target column and target lines, and leave phosphorus in pounds, not metric tons (Table 5). In the graphs, remove the phosphorus information, emphasize the practices implemented. The coefficients should be provided in an appendix with source information and another asterisk. The tables and figures should indicate that the numbers are cumulative (i.e. Table 2, last row). Table 2 title needs to be clarified to better reflect the data presented in the table. The segment totals in Table 5 should also be removed.
 - ii. Vote: Motion was seconded by Laura M. All in favor. Abstentions: Fred Dunlap.

Motion to adjourn: Neil Kamman, Doug Facey, all in favor.

TAC: Breck Bowden, Dave Franzi, Kip Potter, John Kanoza, Ed Snizek, Laura Medalie (for Jamie Shanley), Martin Mimeault, Fred Dunlap, Eric Smeltzer, Doug Facey, Mike Winslow, Neil Kamman, Laura DiPietro, Vic Putman, Erik Beck (phone), Mario Paula (phone)

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

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