

Lake Champlain Basin Program
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday January 6th, 2016
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

LCBP Conference Room, Gordon Center House, Grand Isle, VT

TAC Meeting Agenda

- I. **10:00 Executive Session – Grant Application review**
 - a. **Breck moved to approve draft Record of Decision. Second by Ed S. All in favor. Kip Potter and Laura DiPietro abstained.**
- II. **10:30 (Open Session) Updates and Announcements**
 - a. **Angela Shambaugh, VT DEC** – EPA passed rule regulating cyanotoxins, including random selection of communities for monitoring.
 - b. **Meg Modley, LCBP** – NYS IS coordination unit has added a new staff person, bringing the total up to three. Gov. Cuomo just announced increase in the EPF to \$300M. Additional \$2 million in funds will be available statewide for steward boat inspections and decontamination stations. Funding is not yet secured for water chestnut in NY for 2016 field season.
 - c. **Laura DiPietro, VAAFM** – public comment period is now closed for VAAFM RAPs. More than 500 people attended the various meetings in November and December and submitted 300 pages of written comments. VAAFM has hired new staff, including enforcement director and inspection staff, and is increasing business office capacity. VAAFM is opening up office space in Williston. Staff at this space will mostly be inspectors for the Lake Champlain basin. North Lake Farm Survey report is now available on the VAAFM website. VAAFM Tile Drain report will be released Jan 15.
 - d. **Neil Kamman, VT DEC** – DEC staff are conducting pre-rulemaking outreach for water quality standards. Now looking at classification system to create more opportunity to designate clean waters. Working on next RFP for Act 64 for clean water fund proposals.
 - e. **Eric Howe, LCBP** - VT Public Service Board issued Certificate of Public Good for TDI New England Clean Power Link. This is the underwater power cable(s) that will run down the Vermont side of the lake and connect over to Ludlow, VT.
 - f. **Eric Perkins, EPA R1** – TMDL revisions still ongoing and responding to comments. Currently planning to issue in early February.
 - g. **Bernie Pientka, VT FWD– 2015** angler creel survey data analysis wrapping up. Staff will be doing public talks in late January/early February to present results of the survey, which focused primarily on Missisquoi Bay and Maquam Bay areas. Angling effort seems to be generally increasing. Harvest numbers are similar to 1999 survey. Intending to do ice fishing survey through Malletts Bay and Inland Sea area in 2016.
 - h. **Fred Dunlap, NYSDEC** – NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) is currently hiring boat launch stewards to be stationed at their launches. OPRHP had a steward at Point Au Roche State Park in Plattsburgh last summer.

- i. **Ed Romanowicz, SUNY Plattsburgh** – Introduced Dan Milz, Environmental Planner faculty at SUNY

III. **Summary of Previous TAC Meeting**

- a. Reviewed meeting summary from the December 2nd TAC meeting.
- b. Motion to approve by Martin M., second by Mark M., no changes. All in favor.

IV. **LCBP updates, Bill Howland, LCBP**

- a. Updates on LCBP activities since the last meeting.
 - i. The anticipated FY16 budget is shaping up. Anticipating \$4.399 million from EPA; GLFC budget is about \$3.5 million (LCBP share will be around \$1 million), and \$295,000 from NPS. Total LCBP FY16 budget will be roughly \$5.5 million. Thanks to Sen. Leahy for his effort on this.
 - ii. The draft FY16 budget will be reviewed by the LCBP Executive Committee on January 19. Will likely be represented as one long list from E&O and TAC, and a separate list for Park Service funding. The Steering Committee will be considering the full budget in mid-February.
 - iii. Michaela Stickney will be transitioning from Lake Champlain Coordinator for VTANR to VT Lakes and Ponds for their shoreline enforcement program.
 - iv. Two RFPs currently open: Assessment of tile drain system impacts to Lake Champlain and phosphorus loads in the tile drainage water in the Jewett Brook watershed of St. Albans Bay (closes January 22, 2016; \$200,000 available) and Urban Stormwater Green Infrastructure Upgrade Guidance and Training (closes January 15, 2016; \$43,400 available)
 - v. Local grants RFP from last summer are mostly awarded now.

V. **10:45 AM: FY16 Technical Project Concept Papers review, Mike Winslow, TAC Chair/LCC**

- a. Mike reviewed the results of the Web Poll that TAC members completed for the FY16 budget recommendations. Mike facilitated the ensuing discussion, and asked TAC for feedback on the ranked list of projects. After some discussion Mike asked for a motion to determine a way in which TAC would change the order of projects in the list.
- b. Neil motioned to add a column to the existing rankings that were delivered to TAC that creates a flag that we can raise to discuss that project's ranking. Breck seconded. Motion carried.
- c. Curt motioned to flag 4O: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Survey in Plattsburgh, NY to elevate to "High". Neil seconded. Motion carried.
- d. Breck motioned to flag 4a: Utilizing Mobile Technology for Implementation of Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) on Vermont's Small Farm Operations to elevate to "high". Neil seconded. Discussion: Is utilization of this application a requirement of regulation? Laura clarified that nutrient management planning is regulatory but use of the software is not. Motion carried.
- e. Neil motioned to flag 5e: Monitoring Initiative for PCBs, PBDEs and other CECs in Fish Tissue from Lake Champlain sportfish to elevate to "high". Second by Andy. Discussion: Is this an unnecessary flag? Does not affect ranking as project is already ranked high in the list. Motion did not pass.
- f. Mark Malchoff motioned to flag 7B Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Fund to elevate to "high", Bill Ardren second. Discussion: Funding already exists; what will happen if funds are not expended? The unexpended funds will be used in the final year of the grant contract for boat launch stewards or other AIS programming. Motion carried.
- g. Mark Malchoff motioned to flag 5d1, Pharmaceuticals in the Lake Champlain Basin I: Assessing Sources and Levels, to elevate to "high". Second from John K. Motion did not pass (tie, broken by the Chair).

- h. Ed S. motioned to flag 7a. Water Chestnut Management Partnership - Lake Champlain to elevate to “high”. Second by Bill Ardren. Discussion: this used to be a long term LCBP project but this is the first year that people want a new funding source. In low budget years it can be a large portion of the budget but it is also only one aspect of AIS control. Previous funding gaps have demonstrated that years of effort and resources are wasted if the plant is not managed annually. Motion did not pass. The group agreed that this is an important non-technical task that should be brought up to Steering Committee.
- i. Jenn motioned to flag 4ag: Enhancing Phosphorus Removal in stormwater treatment practices to elevate to “high”. Second by Curt. Motion did not pass.
- j. Kevin F. motioned to flag 4D: Support of a post-doctoral or early-career faculty fellowship to explore multivariate analysis of biological monitoring data in the Lake Champlain Basin to demote to “medium low”. Second by Ed R. Discussion: if TAC votes to move this project lower in the rankings, that is sending a message that the data generated by the LTMP are not important, or at least that evaluation of the data is not important. Some would prefer to see the tag of “post-doc” or “early-career faculty” removed to make it less restrictive for applicants. Project description was not changed, but could be adjusted later in the budget process. Motion did not pass.
- k. Motion to close discussion by Neil K., second by Laura D. All in favor.

VI. 1:00 PM Technical Presentation: Phosphorus in streambank soils in the Lake Champlain Basin, Don Ross, University of Vermont, Dept. of Plant and Soil Science

- a. Don reviewed his recent research exploring the contribution of phosphorus from streambank soils in the Champlain basin. Abstract from the paper he and co-authors published in Journal of Environmental Quality:
- b. Streambank erosion is an important contributor to sediment and nutrient export. This study determined total P (TP), soil-test P (Modified Morgan’s, MM-P), and the degree of P saturation (DPS) in eroding riparian soils along four Lake Champlain Basin stream corridors. We investigated the relationship between these data and soil texture and with a series of GIS-derived landscape metrics. We also quantified the potential P load from eroding streambanks using remote sensing. Soil samples were taken from 76 erosion features to a depth of 90 cm on four streams in Chittenden County, Vermont. Mean concentrations of TP and MM-P were similar among the watersheds and through depth. Neither TP, MM-P, nor DPS were well related to texture. Metrics from available spatial databases for parent material, soil series, and landscape position were somewhat useful in predicting TP and MM-P. Eroding streambank soil from 2004 through 2007 in the four streams was estimated to contain from 0.5 to 3.9 Mg of TP and 1.4 to 10.9 kg MM-P. The mean DPS in each watershed was <18% and, along with low MM-P concentrations, suggests that eroded streambanks may act as sinks rather than sources of P. The portion of total nonpoint P export potentially contributed by streambank erosion ranged from 6% in the stream with the lowest erosion rate to 30% in the stream with the highest erosion rate. Based on TP values, the P contribution of these streambanks could be considerable, and more information is needed on their actual contribution to bioavailable P in receiving waters.

VII. 2:00 PM Final Report Presentation: Project Rock – Implementation Phase, Heather Darby and Amanda Gervais, UVM Extension

- a. Heather reviewed this project with the group, which included the initial project identification phase (Phase I, concluded in 2013) and the Implementation Phase II (primary focus of this report).

- b. They found that cover crops are now highly accepted in this watershed. Farmers are coming along on reduced tillage and manure injection. Grassed waterways not accepted yet; there needs to be more outreach to the farm community to increase utilization of this BMP.
- c. They learned that financial assistance isn't always the biggest driver in the decision to implement a BMP, but is important – especially during times of financial issues (eg. Low milk prices). Other risks factor in, such as potential for crop loss/failure due to the BMP, lack of equipment availability, and relationships with outreach and agency staff.
- d. Comment: it would be good to see recommendations in the report about what some of the top areas are for next steps in the Rock River.
- e. Executive Session for TAC to discuss the report.**
- f. Return to Open Session. TAC will vote to approve the report, pending any revisions.**
 - i. Breck motioned to approve with provisions as reviewed by a sub-committee. Second by Neil K. All in favor. Breck abstained.

VIII. 3:15 Adjourn

Attendance:

TAC: Mike Winslow (LCC/TAC Chair), Jamie Shanley (USGS), Eric Perkins (EPA R1 for MaryJo Feuerbach), Angela Shambaugh (VT DEC), Curt Gervich (SUNY Plattsburgh), Breck Bowden (UVM), Bernie Pientka (VT FWD), Kip Potter (VT-NRCS), Martin Mimeault (MDDELCC), Ed Snizek (APA), Mark Malchoff (LCSG), John Kanoza (Clinton Co DOH), Fred Dunlap (NYSDEC), Ed Romanowicz (SUNY Plattsburgh) Andy Chevrefils (VT DOH), Neil Kamman (VT DEC), Jenn Callahan (VTRANS), Eric Young (Miner Institute), Kevin Farrington (City of Plattsburgh), Laura DiPietro (VAAFAM) Phone: Bob Brower (NYS DAM), Bill Ardren (USFWS)

LCBP: Eric Howe, Bill Howland, Meg Modley, Stephanie Castle

Guests: Dan Milz, SUNY Plattsburgh; Becky Tharp, Sea Grant; David Borthwick-Leslie (public)