

**Lake Champlain Basin Program
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday September 6th 2017
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

TAC Meeting Summary

TAC members: Kip Potter, Eric Perkins, Martin Mimeault, Bill Ardren, Andrew Schroth, John Kanoza, Jenn Callahan, Neil Kamman, Fred Dunlap, Laura DiPietro, Mike Winslow, James Jutras, MaryJo Feuerbach, Eric Young, Bernie Pientka (phone), Ed Snizek (phone)

LCBP Staff: Matt Vaughan, Ellen Kujawa, Meg Modley, Eric Howe

Guests: Kari Dolan, Tom Berry

10:00 AM Executive Session: Review FY18 Request for Pre-proposals

The TAC reviewed and provided feedback for the FY18 Request for Pre-proposals. This will go before the Executive Committee for approval on September 19th.

10:45 AM Updates, Announcements, and Public Comments

- Martin Mimeault: Quebec / Vermont Missisquoi Bay Task force meeting in June was productive. Now planning new agreement through this fall.
- Fred Dunlap: Several invasive species updates. Hemlock wooly adelgid was observed in the Lake George basin. Hydrilla was intercepted by LCBP-funded Adirondack Watershed Institute stewards in upper Saranac Lake. Emerald Ash Borer was also found in the Adirondacks.
- Bill Ardren - White River National Fish Hatchery has reopened, will be maintaining broodstock of lake trout and salmon for the Lake Champlain fishery. Also considering starting a sauger population.
- Neil: VT DEC has been rapidly implementing water quality programs: municipal road general program granted \$2.6 million (186 municipalities signed up); clean water block grants will award \$2.0 million; ecosystem restoration grants will total \$1.6 million; \$500k is reserved for property easements. There is some possible good news in steam monitoring on aggressively implemented BMP projects (Jewett Brook, Rock River, etc.). US Army Corps has new leadership and will be in VT next week to discuss new projects. Stormwater Rule is in pre-rule-making stage (conceptual components are out now). VT state Legislature required state to assemble a clean water working group and that work is happening now. There was a hearing to reclassify the LaPlatte River Wetland to Class 1.
- Laura: just verbally approved the one-year funding for at least 40 tile drain synoptic sampling sites (UVM North, UVM South, and NRCDs).
- Bill Ardren: we found evidence of natural reproduction of land-locked Atlantic Salmon in the Boquette River for the first time in 100+ years, and will be working with LCBP on the "salmon in the classroom project". This story has been picked up by the national media and we have seen good interest.
- Kip Potter: implementations at four sites started in 2016 and we've seen reasonably good progress (St. Albans and McKenzie performed better than

phosphorus reduction goals). Continuing these projects and more planning efforts in two more sites (implementation in FY2019).

- Kari Dolan: Thanks to all for participation in Clean Water Week. Over 90 sponsors and over 70 events statewide. There was also a Clean Water Fund Board meeting yesterday and they are moving to pass the budget (including revenue from property transfer surcharge ~\$4 million plus additional \$11 million from capital funding). Public comments are open again.
- Tom Berry: we had subcommittee appropriations staff in Vermont in August and they got exposure to several projects. Commerce Science program is advancing to step up Sea Grant program. Federal budget for FY17 runs out at the end of the month; the most likely outcome now is a continuing resolution to run out on December 8th. In the meantime, we continue to work on appropriations bills (have marked up Energy and Water, which funds US Army Corps, including Vicksburg lab which funds water chestnut management in VT). Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) bill is being marked up in committee this afternoon; Leahy has sought an increase there and we will know the outcome at committee level later today. International Joint Commission (IJC) funding is in that bill as well, and that funding is quite likely. There is talk of an IJC reference on water quality in Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog. Also seeking GLFC for a fisheries study on Lake Memphremagog.
- MaryJo: FY17 budget Vermont funding went through yesterday; NEIWPC funding has gone through regional process and is in Washington for their review. We haven't heard anything and expect that it will be awarded by the end of the month.
- Andrew Schroth: All monitoring stations have been deployed (St. Albans and Missisquoi Bay). Cool, wet weather has suppressed most cyanobacteria blooms this summer. Set up soil monitoring stations as well to compare wet vs. dry riparian zones in addition to the stream monitoring already in place.

11:05 AM Review and Approve Summary of Previous TAC meeting

Moved by Martin, second by Neil. All in favor. Motion is approved.

11:10 AM LCBP updates, Eric Howe, LCBP

Opportunities for Action has been signed and officially adopted by LCBP. We had a successful signing ceremony on June 19.

The IJC's Lake Champlain – Richelieu River Flooding Study is underway. Four technical working groups have been formed and met in South Burlington on August 21 – 23. If any TAC member would like to learn more or get involved, please contact LCBP or Keith Robinson at USGS.

Lake Champlain Boat Launch Stewards are finishing up a successful season. LCBP enjoyed a strong collaboration with OBVBM who hosted the Quebec and we hope to work with them again next year. There have been no spiny waterflea observations yet this season. The Champlain Canal Barrier Feasibility Study project is under negotiation and NEIWPC will be serving as the local sponsor moving forward. World Canals

Conference in Syracuse the week of Sept 25. LCBP hosted two productive Water Chestnut Harvest days this summer.

The Lake Champlain Research Conference will be held January 8 – 9, 2018 at University of Vermont in Burlington. The call for session topics has closed and the call for abstracts will open in mid-September.

Federal Partners Group is meeting tomorrow, where partners will get a tour of the US Army Corps Section 542 South Burlington Bartlett Brook Stormwater Management Project. The TAC will review a proposal for a new potential Section 542 project in October.

LCBP staff attended a meeting to discuss potentially reviving the region's Champlain Adirondack Biosphere Reserve status through the international UNESCO program. The status has been renewed, though it has not yet been active. Please contact LCBP if you are interested in learning more or getting involved.

LCBP staff is beginning preparations for the State of the Lake 2018. The TAC will begin reviewing materials in October.

11:15 AM TAC business, Matt Vaughan and Eric Howe, LCBP

- a) 2017-2018 TAC schedule and timeline for new budget process
Matt reviewed the rough TAC schedule for the upcoming season. This was distributed to TAC members following the meeting.
- b) FY17 Technical budget review
Matt distributed and presented an abridged version of the LCBP FY17 budget. This was distributed to TAC members following the meeting.
- c) Conflict of interest guideline review
Eric reviewed the new conflict of interest guidelines with TAC, which are embedded within the most recent *Opportunities for Action*.
- d) TAC membership discussion
The TAC discussed membership and identified a potential member to contact to gauge interest.

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Long-term Monitoring Analysis Update, Tim Mihuc, SUNY Plattsburgh
Tim Mihuc presented his team's latest research using data from the Lake Champlain Long-Term Monitoring Program. There has been a major decline in plankton in the 1990s, likely due to zebra mussels, though populations are starting to bounce back. Abundance patterns may also be linked to alewife introduction and large disturbance events (such as Tropical Storm Irene). New modeling efforts are underway to understand changes in the lake.

When spiny waterflea invaded, population densities were initially very high in the lake and then notably decreased. We are likely seeing the boom and bust phase of early

invasion. Spiny waterflea has had significant effects on lake plankton. Buoy monitoring data shows that climate change will likely affect the lake's thermal structure.

2:00 PM Rock River project discussion

This project was approved for the FY17 LCBP budget and is intended to be collaborative between Vermont and QC. After some discussion, the TAC decided to form a subcommittee, which will be composed of Staci Pomeroy, Karen Bates, Eric Perkins, Martin Mimeault, and Matt Vaughan. This group will define a scope of work (due February/March for implementation in 2019), or a full RFP (due much sooner for 2018 implementation).

2:30 PM Adjourn