

**Lake Champlain Basin Program
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday October 4th 2017
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

TAC Meeting Summary

Attendance

TAC: Mike Winslow, Jamie Shanley, Eric Perkins, Breck Bowden, Bernie Pientka, Mark Malchoff, Martin Mimeault, Bill Ardren, Kevin Behm, Angela Shambaugh, Jenn Callahan, MaryJo Feuerbach, Neil Kamman, Fred Dunlap, Andrew Schroth, Ed Snizek (phone), James Jutras (phone)

LCBP Staff: Meg Modley, Matthew Vaughan, Ellen Kujawa, Eric Howe, Corey Aydlett
Guests: Eric Blatt (VTDEC), Kari Dolan (VTDEC), Bethany Sargent (VTDEC), David Borthwick-Leslie, Perry Thomas (VTDEC), Daria Mazey (USACE - phone)

10:00 AM Updates, announcements, and public comments

Angela: There have been many cyanobacteria observations at the end of this season, and we hope they will be winding down. Several samples showed no microcystin present. 16 ug/L microcystin concentration measured in Ticklenaked pond. All others were below recommended recreational limit (6.0 ug/L). Angela noted that Ticklenaked pond was treated with alum in 2014. There was a large mussel die off in northeastern Missisquoi Bay. Québec officials are currently evaluating what the cause of death might be. There is also a white substance coming out of Pike River. It may be cyanobacteria from Lake Carmi and could be due to anoxic conditions.

Neil: Breck attended their department's annual retreat and gave lecture on the cutting edge of water science. Memphremagog TMDL for phosphorus is approved by the EPA. The Moon Brook watershed in Rutland off notice for temperature TMDL.

Kari: We are currently in our second grant round of three of ecosystem restoration grants. VTDEC will be releasing a new RFP this week for partnership grants. They are putting together FY17 report and developing budget for FY18 funds. Clean water funds for FY19 proposal will be for the governor's office and the legislature. Reporting surrounding Julie Moore's comments were not accurate. She wrote an op-ed piece in response.

Bethany: VT Citizens Advisory Committee meeting will be on October 16. The focus will be on the International Joint Commission study on Lake Champlain – Richelieu River flooding.

Jamie: USGS has category of data that are "operational" for data that is not quality controlled. They have decided to remove this info from public view. Had been available for 120 days, but now they will not. Can still access at National Weather Service site. Winooski at Waterbury and Lamoille River will likely be the most popular gages affected. Jamie would like to discuss the USGS tributary loading trend work at a future TAC meeting.

Review and approve summary of previous TAC meeting

Neil moved to approved summary as written. Martin seconded. All in favor.

LCBP updates

- Corey Aydlett joined the LCBP team as an EcoAmericorps service member.
- Local grants RFP released: LCBP offers up to \$500,000 for local implementation projects, in seven categories: Education and Outreach, Organizational Support, Pollution

Prevention and Habitat Conservation, Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention, Community Resilience, Making of Nations, and Local Heritage. Available at lcbp.org/grants

- Request for Technical Pre-Proposals to Implement OFA: LCBP seeks pre-proposals that address strategies outlined in Opportunities for Action; pre-proposals are due by November 8th. Available at lcbp.org/grants
- Lake Champlain Research Conference Call for Abstracts was released – abstracts are due by November 3rd.
- Federal partners workgroup met in early Sept– Will release a “Partners in Action” brochure
- LCBP Executive Committee activities
 - o Approved updated conflict of interest guidelines
 - o Approved re-allocation of tile drain project funds
- Champlain Canal Barrier Feasibility Study agreement has been signed.

10:20 AM US Army Corps of Engineers Section 542 proposals

a. Jewett / Stevens Brook, *Perry Thomas, VT DEC*

The goal of this project is to get a nuanced and accurate assessment of options, including their longevity vs. implementation costs. Citizens are very interested in VTDEC aggressively pursuing in-lake and in-wetland options.

The TAC discussed the projects and **asked for the following changes to be made:** (1) Timeframe and readiness should be a part of output of project to identify when things should happen, and (2) It should be clarified that all possible options will be considered as part of the project.

b. Waterbury Dam, *Neil Kamman, Eric Blatt, VT DEC*

The goal of this project is to make necessary repairs to the Waterbury dam.

The TAC discussed this project and **asked for one change:** There should be clarification that cost estimates are from a previous study and will not necessarily be the costs of the resulting design.

Breck moved to endorse these two projects **with modifications noted above.**
Seconded by Kip. All in favor. Angela, Bernie, and Neil abstained.

11:20 AM 2018 State of the Lake discussion, *LCBP staff*

TAC provided feedback on new versions of State of the Lake phosphorus graphics.

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Fluvial Processes in Motion: Measuring Bank Erosion and Suspended Sediment Flux using Advanced Geomatics and Machine Learning, *Scott Hamshaw, University of Vermont*

Scott presented the methods and findings of his PhD research. He used machine learning techniques to predict future stream discharge based on several meteorological inputs, and to automate the classification of hysteresis loops.

2:00 PM 2018 State of the Lake discussion continued

TAC provided feedback on new versions of State of the Lake phosphorus and lake freeze over trend graphics.

3:00 PM Adjourn