

Lake Champlain Basin Program
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday February 3rd, 2016
9:45 AM – 3:00 PM
LCBP Conference Room, Gordon Center House, Grand Isle, VT

TAC Meeting Agenda

- I. 9:45 Executive Session – Grant Application reviews**
- II. 10:45 (Open Session) Updates and Announcements**
 - a. Andy Chevrefils has moved into another position at VT DOH and has resigned his TAC membership.
 - b. Bob Brower, NYS Ag & Markets– circulated information regarding a proposed increase in the NYS Environmental Protection Fund of \$132 million to a total of \$300 million.
 - c. There will be NO March TAC meeting.
 - d. Laura DiPietro, VAAFM– tile drainage report extended to February 15th. Williston VAAFM office space will be open soon. Several meeting spaces will be available for public use. Hiring three additional positions.
 - e. Tom Berry, Senator Leahy’s Office – entering into budget cycle where Sen Leahy makes enquiries into budget process for FY17 budget. Agency staff should touch base with Tom about priorities.
 - f. Breck Bowden, Sea Grant/UVM – UVM tenure-track position search for limnology position. Very good response to the position posting. Position is for Assistant or Associate level. Public on-campus interviews will be scheduled for April. TAC will be invited.
 - g. Bernie Pientka, VTFWD – VTFWD will do a soft-release for an online fishing regulation lookup.
 - h. Bill Ardren, USFWS for Vic Putman– symposium in Willsboro on the dam removal and salmon restoration efforts on the Boquet River on March 11.
 - i. Martin Mimeault, MDDELCC – Quebec MDDELCC is drafting proposal to send to OURANOS (Quebec center for climate change) to support MDDELCC and MNRF for work on food web and crustaceans, and HABs and in Missisquoi Bay - may be looking for letter of support from LCBP and other agencies for this work.
- III. 10:50 AM Summary of Previous TAC Meeting**
 - a. TAC reviewed and approved minutes from the January 6th TAC meeting.
 - i. Motion to approve by Martin, second by Laura D. all in favor. No abstentions.
- IV. 10:55 AM LCBP updates, Bill Howland, LCBP**
 - a. The LCBP Steering Committee will meet Feb 18-19 in Quebec. Meeting agenda will focus on the FY16 budget process and the Opportunities for Action revision. Executive Committee will be ranking the FY16 budget tasks shortly, in preparation for the Steering Committee meeting.

- b. OFA discussion will focus on what the LCBP needs to have in its management plan, rather than a plan that incorporates commitments from all OFA partners. Have asked all Steering Committee members to provide feedback on gap analyses on OFA or their own management plans that they think LCBP should address. Feedback so far has been very helpful. General feeling is that there should be a re-invigoration on research into innovative practices for BMP implementation. Breck endorsed the idea of generating an entity that would think about innovative ways moving forward to reduce phosphorus loading to the lake. This includes thinking about new ways to implement projects, and is a good opportunity for the LCBP to leverage and move the idea forward.
- c. Will there be discussion about what the proper mix of research vs implementation? The current OFA draft focuses on goals and objectives, but not tasks. Would be good to develop a summary of progress made in current OFA database.

V. 11:00 AM FY16 Technical budget update, Mike Winslow, TAC Chair/LCC

- a. Mike provided a brief overview of the outcome of the January Executive Committee discussion on the FY16 budget. Mike said that the biggest change to the budget was that VT DEC requested the agronomists be put back on the budget, as they do not have enough funds to cover the program this year. TAC had no comments.

VI. 11:15 AM: Report-out on the recent International Joint Commission Lake Champlain – Richelieu River Technical Working Group, Keith Robinson, USGS

- a. Keith reviewed the recently published report from the IJC TWG which looked at flood remediation options for Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River, in response to the 2011 spring lake flooding event. Keith also provided some updates on other USGS initiatives related to Lake Champlain.
- b. Partners involved in the project included IJC, USGS, Environment Canada-Hydrology, QC MDDELCC, VT DEC, NYS DEC, LCBP and NOAA. Keith (USGS) and Jean-François Cantin (EC) chaired the group.
- c. Goal of the project was to enhance the abilities of US/CA to improve flood forecasting and preparedness.
- d. Right now, each jurisdiction does its own flood forecasting with little cross-border communication.
- e. This project calibrated cross-border GIS data for hydrologic modeling and collected new LiDAR data, created new lake and river models for predicting water levels and flows, identified modeling gaps, identified communication gaps, and created static inundation maps at every 0.5 foot from 100-106 feet on Lake Champlain-Richelieu River. The project also recommended future enhanced flood forecasting for the system and installed two new lake gages (one at Port Henry NY and the other on the east side of Grand Isle in the NE Arm).
- f. Identified needs include a comprehensive hydrologic model including wave action, updated Richelieu bathymetry downstream from Chambly, and lake-wide interactive inundation mapping (static maps only were created for areas with LiDAR- QC and VT portions, along with a portion of Clinton County NY).
- g. Report, along with technical reports can be found on the <http://ijc.org/en/> webpage.

VII. 1:00 PM Opportunities for Action 2016 planning

- a. Eric provided an outline of the working draft of 2016 OFA. This plan will not be comprehensive, but will focus on LCBP-only management. Eric gave a brief overview of

the level of detail LCBP is aiming for in this new management plan, and the four main focus areas- clean water, healthy ecosystems, local connections and informed citizens. Some feedback from the LCBP Steering Committee had already been incorporated into the working document.

- b. TAC reviewed the draft 2016 OFA plan. Comments included:
 - i. Better incorporation of cross-cutting categories, such as research
 - ii. Careful verbiage to better describe LCBP's role and achievable tasks
 - iii. High-level inclusion of LCBP's role as partner/meeting facilitator
 - iv. A matrix format was suggested (task objective x topic areas), color coded to current budget strategy columns (research, implementation, etc.)
 - v. For OFA website, TAC agreed that the page should not be dependent on partner updates but should not be static, either. Annual data updates to show progress was suggested.
 - vi. TAC discussed potential performance measures for LCBP and agreed that more information (such as a summary of achievements from the last OFA) would help in creating new, achievable goals.
 - vii. TAC will continue to work on performance measure feedback for OFA 2016 at the next meeting in April.

VIII. 3:00 Adjourn

Attendance:

TAC: Mike Winslow (TAC Chair, LCC); Jamie Shanley (USGS), Ed Romanowicz (SUNY Plattsburgh), Angela Shambaugh (VTDEC), Kip Potter (NRCS-VT), Bill Ardren (USFWS), Bernie Pientka (VTFWD), Kevin Farrington (City of Plattsburgh), Fred Dunlap (NYSDEC), Kevin Behm (Addison Co RPC), Laura DiPietro (VAAFM), Neil Kamman (VTDEC), Steve Kramer, Miner Institute (for Eric Young), Martin Mimeault (MDDELCC), Curt Gervich (SUNY Plattsburgh), Jim Jutras (Essex Water). Phone: Bob Brower (NYS DAM), Jenn Callahan (VTRANS), MaryJo Feuerbach (USEPA)

LCBP: Eric Howe, Stephanie Castle, Bill Howland

Guests: Keith Robinson (USGS), Tom Berry (Sen. Leahy)