

Lake Champlain Basin Program
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday April 6th, 2016
9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
LCBP Conference Room, Gordon Center House, Grand Isle, VT

TAC Meeting Agenda

I. 9:30 Executive Session – Grant Application reviews

II. 10:30 (Open Session) Updates and Announcements

Neil Kamman, VTDEC – VT Stormwater manual is out for public comment. One big piece is encouragement of infiltration practices. VT State Treasurer is examining long-term funding needs for clean water program. There are two bills in consideration: one will require rapid notification of CSOs when they occur, and the other aims to reclassify VT waters. It would add a class A1 water, which would be between the current Class A and Class B waters. The VT water quality standards would be amended to include these bills.

Martin Mimeault, MDDELCC – The new Canadian budget from new Administration has approved \$20 million to go to IJC to work on four watersheds, including Champlain/Richelieu Rivers over the next 5 years. Missisquoi Bay watershed groups have a grant to work on erosion and soil conservation practices to hire agronomist to work on BMPs on farms in the Pike and Rock Rivers over the next two years.

Meg Modley, LCBP – working on hiring 8 LCBP stewards; working with VT DEC on two mobile boat wash units for the summer; LCBP stewards may staff them. NYSDEC released \$2 million in grants for steward programs and decontamination units, but these funds will likely go elsewhere in the state. AIS outreach strategy being developed for NYS. Water chestnut workgroup meeting post-TAC today to discuss future of program. 2016 is first field season without TNC involvement in the program. USFWS for ANS management has doubled this year to accommodate demand for ANAS programs. Anticipate \$47K to VT for water chestnut funding and other ANS programs this year. Scheduling a hydrilla workshop in July; 2 components, one for managers and other for Watershed groups. Working on boat designs to make them less likely to harbor AIS in various components of boats. Canalways will be major focus of national ANS task force meeting.

MaryJo Feuerbach, EPA Region I– EPA is wrapping up comments on TMDL. Anticipate releasing TMDL by end of April.

III. 10:45 AM Summary of Previous TAC Meeting

Motion to approve by Neil K., second by Jim J. all in favor. Motion carried.

IV. 10:50 AM LCBP updates, *Bill Howland, LCBP*

Bill announced that he is retiring on June 22. Bill thanked the TAC for the amazing amount of work TAC does. The LCBP Director position has been announced by NEIWPC and closes at the end of April. Bill reviewed and circulated the LCBP 2015 annual report. He also reviewed a draft of the FY16 budget that was approved by the Steering Committee in

February. LCBP staff will be coordinating TMDL public meetings in early June

V. 11:00 AM Workplan Review, Stone Environmental Jewett Brook Tile Drain Project

- a. Julie Moore and Don Meals presented the workplan, *Assessment of Tile Drainage System Impacts to Lake Champlain and Phosphorus Loads in Tile Drainage in the Jewett Brook Watershed of St. Albans Bay* for TAC feedback.
- i. Julie confirmed that the P application rate tracking will include what is being applied and when to agricultural fields when that information is available. Stone will work with farmers to map old tile systems, relying on aerial imagery or smoking the system if necessary. Julie went over the anticipated challenges –
 1. Securing sufficient landowner permission
 2. Obtaining accurate data on extent/depth/age of tile systems
 3. Funding constraints preclude TN or other analytes
 - Preliminary lit review suggests that TN and N derivatives may be useful
 - ii. Bill Howland confirmed that farmers will remain anonymous and the report will not be used to publish enforcement infractions associated with particular farms.
 - iii. Kip P. noted that St Albans Bay is a targeted watershed for NRCS, and over \$1 million is available in EQIP funds to cost-share practices.
 - iv. Motion to approve by Neil to adopt workplan as drafted. Second by Kip. All in favor.

VI. 1:30 PM Workplan Review, Lake Champlain Committee

Mike reviewed the LCC component of the 2016 Lake Champlain BGA monitoring program. Some challenges/limitations to the monitoring program include spatial coverage, temporal resolution (weekly), precision – as LCC sacrifices precision to a qualitative presence/absence of blooms. The reporting/turnaround time will be very quick – 24-hour public reporting aspect. Chemical analyses take much longer. There are economic constraints to the project and adjustments have been made to the budget.

Motion to approve by Angela S., second by John K, Mike W. abstained.

VII. 12:00 PM Lunch

VIII. 12:45 PM Workplan Review, Cornell University Ag Engineering Project

Dr. Curt Gooch presented the workplan, *PRO-DAIRY Increases Agricultural Engineering Capacity for BMP Implementation* for TAC feedback. TAC questioned how a self-registration component will be developed through this program because of the web-based aspect of the training curriculum. Kip Potter suggested to include silage leachate and follow NRCS implementation procedures. He also suggested the project could include bedded pack system in barnyard (NRCS now require training course for bedded pack systems). What cost share programs are available? NRCS, VAAFM, LCBP? Eric H. will check on ag implementation funds currently available. TAC suggested the use of an auditor (engineer in VT, NY, NH). LCBP will advertise the workshop for potential engineers. The project manager estimated that registration fees would be \$10-\$50, and would be used to cover meeting costs and continuing education credits. The content for each workshop will be different. Motion to approve workplan, Kip. Second by Martin. No opposed, no abstentions.

IX. 2:00 PM Workplan and Report Review, 2016 Long Term Management Plan Workplan and 2015 Annual Report

- a. Angela Shambaugh and Fred Dunlap presented the 2016 LTMP workplan and 2015 Annual report for TAC feedback and approval.
- b. Pete reviewed the report from the 2015 field season.
 - i. Mike W. suggested the phyto/zooplankton database - Table 6 needs to be updated (should actually be Table 5). It showed very high variability in phyto/zooplankton tows.
 - ii. Luke reported on the SWF sampling last year. High density in Great Lakes is 10-15 plankton/m³.
 - iii. TAC agreed that the Winkler method is outdated and no longer necessary for 2016 season.
 - iv. Motion to approve workplan by Jim J., Second by Ed S. No opposed. Abstentions: Neil K., Fred D., Angela S. , Luke.

X. 2:30 PM Opportunities for Action 2016 planning

- a. TAC discussed potential performance measures/indicators/targets for LCBP to consider for aspects of the new management plan.

Mike W. questioned a few tasks as being too ambitious and/or the role of LCBP to complete. WWTP asset management was one example. Eric H. replied that LCBP is releasing an RFP next week to focus on this issue and the need has been identified.

MaryJo F. asked if LCBP wants to use VT indicators as performance measures, what similar metrics would be used in NY? She also questioned the bigger overarching environmental goals that should guide the management plan.

David B. (citizen) said the TMDL affects this plan and this discussion, and that's still not set yet. Will it be incorporated?

Angela S. suggested that the plan still lacks a statement indicating that LCBP supports sound science and science implementation/communication. She also noted the plan is missing climate change-driven tasks. LCBP staff said there have been problems integrating cross-chapter topics.

Martin M. would like to see the QC goals integrated into the plan feedback. He asked what will be the reporting mechanism.

Eric H. will incorporate feedback into a more readable form using SOL indicators and present again at May TAC meeting.

XI. 3:00 Adjourn

Attendance:

TAC: Fred Dunlap (NYS DEC), John Kanoza (Clinton Co. DOH), Martin Mimeault (MDDELCC), Ed Snizek (APA), Mike Winslow (Lake Champlain Committee; TAC Chair), Jamie Shanley (USGS), Dennis DeWeese (NRCS-NY), Kip Potter (NRCS-VT), Bernie Pientka (VT FWD), MaryJo Feuerbach (EPA R1), Kevin Farrington (City of Plattsburgh), Luke Meyers (SUNY Plattsburgh, for Mark Malchoff), Angela Shambaugh (VT DEC), Jenn Callahan (VTRANS), Jim Jutras (Essex Jct Water Dept), Neil Kamman (VTDEC), Kris Stepenuck (LCSG for Breck Bowden), Steve Kramer (Miner Institute for Eric Young); Phone: Bob Brower, NYS Ag & Markets

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

Public: Julie Moore and Don Meals (Stone Environmental), Peter Wright (Cornell University; phone), Marli Rupe (VT DEC; phone), Liz Royer (VT Rural Water); Tom Berry (Sen. Leahy), Pete Stangel (NEIWPC/VT DEC)