

2011 LAKE CHAMPLAIN ACTION PLAN



“There is tension from an increasing crescendo of frustration and anger at the lack of substantial reduction of excess nutrients, bacteria and sediments entering Lake Champlain. Adding a backdrop of probable reductions in federal dollars and an EPA decision to negate some parts of the Total Maximum Daily Load, there is concern that in some parts of the Lake things may be at a tipping point. We’ll be unable to recover for many generations without clear, bold actions that must start now.”

— Buzz Hoerr, VTCAC Chair



Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

HIGHEST PRIORITIES

1. **Direct the State of Vermont to achieve target phosphorus load reductions in each Lake Champlain lake segment watershed by specific dates in short term increments by creating tactical basin plans that actively track phosphorus reduction implementation results.**
These plans would engage with the process for developing phosphorus reduction indicators and measuring progress described in the 2010 Lake Champlain TMDL Implementation Plan.
2. **Expand enforcement of transportation related run-off to reduce water pollution from municipal roadway construction, maintenance and repair.** While the revised Vermont Agency of Transportation Town Road and Bridge Standards per Act 110 of the 2010 legislative session will contribute to water quality improvement, these codes rely on voluntary compliance and certification with the codes and standards.
3. **Increase funding for the Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) and Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) programs.** They support cost-effective practices to improve soil stability and reduce erosion and manure run-off through conservation tillage planting and nutrient management planning. The current funding level for 2012 is \$461,674. Hiring an additional nutrient and field practice consultant for \$75,000 per year will ensure that more farmers are working with their NMPs and installing FAP practices appropriately.
4. **Minimize stormwater run-off in impaired watersheds** by retrofitting stormwater control structures, improving zoning and planning to limit development impacts and requiring stormwater utilities to fund retrofits.

PRIORITIES

5. **Prohibit phosphorus in lawn fertilizers unless a soil test shows a phosphorus deficiency.** Phosphorus fertilizer bans have passed in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New Jersey, Illinois, and New York. A ban would boost the strictly educational approach of the **Don't P on Your Lawn** campaign initiated by the Lake Champlain Basin Program, Lake Champlain Committee and other partners. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets may enforce the ban through sales at retail stores via signage, product placement and labeling, and municipalities may enforce the ban through monitoring phosphorus fertilizer use within municipalities.
6. **Promote a fee on the price of flushable products including soaps, detergents and toilet tissue for water and wastewater infrastructure repair and the purchase of easements for river corridor, wetland and lakeshore conservation.** This tax would establish a dedicated fund for clean water initiatives, whether infrastructure maintenance, water quality conservation measures and fish and wildlife protection, or restoration of water quality in lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.
7. **Replenish the Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP) which funds 50% of purchase costs, up to \$50,000, of innovative equipment such as manure injectors and aerators** that reduce agricultural nutrient pollution. This program will cost \$100,000 annually in capital funds, and equipment would be available directly to individual farmers and groups that work with farmers.
8. **Exclude livestock from waterways by accelerating annual funding for fencing, coordinating with outside organizations to install fencing and revising the Acceptable Agricultural Practices to eliminate livestock access to surface water in production areas.** The current estimate to install necessary fencing is \$17 million. At current funding levels, it would take 42 years to complete this task.
9. **Support funding for aquatic invasive and nuisance species management, monitoring, control, and spread prevention, especially for water chestnut and sea lamprey.**
10. **Support the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation LaRosa Laboratory and database** and institute water quality sampling plan design and analysis procedures that leverage citizen volunteer services to increase transparent sharing of water quality data.



VTCAC Members

Buzz Hoerr, Chair, Colchester, Business Owner
Jan Peterson, Vice-Chair, North Hero, Educator
Sen. Claire Ayer, Addison County and Brandon
Eric Clifford, Starksboro, Dairy Farmer
Larry Dupont, N. Lake Champlain Advisory Committee, North Hero
James Ehlers, Colchester, Business Executive
Lori Fisher, Burlington, Lake Champlain Committee
Paul Hansen, Alburgh, Business Owner
Peter Kreisel, Burlington, CPA/Business Consultant
Rep. Kristy Spengler, Colchester
Sen. Ginny Lyons, Chittenden County
Ted Tyler, Highgate Springs, Resort Owner
Rep. Kate Webb, Shelburne
Sheri Young, Orwell, Septic Design and Environmental Consulting

Michaela Stickney

Vermont Lake Champlain Coordinator
Lake Champlain Basin Program
(802) 241-3619 • michaela.stickney@state.vt.us

www.lcbp.org

