



LAKE CHAMPLAIN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

NOVEMBER 18TH, 2020 9:45AM - 12:30PM
(VIA WEBINAR/TELECONFERENCE)

PARTICIPANTS:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Joe Zalewski (Meeting Chair, NYS DEC), John Krueger (Chair, HAPAC), Vic Putman (Chair, NY CAC), Mark Naud (VT CAC), Buzz Hoerr (Chair, E&O Committee), Jean-François Cloutier (Quebec MELCC, for Nathalie Provost), Neil Kamman (Chair, TAC), MaryJo Feuerbach (EPA R1), Pierre Leduc (Chair, Quebec CAC), Pete Laflamme (VT ANR), Mario Paula (EPA R2 for Rick Balla)

ADDITIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Maya Dehner (USACE), Laura DiPietro (VT AAFM)

STAFF: LCBP: Colleen Hickey, Lauren Jenness, Jim Brangan, Ryan Mitchell, Matthew Vaughan, Mae Kate Campbell, Elizabeth Lee, Eric Howe, Meg Modley Gilbertson, Kathy Jarvis; Heather Radcliffe (NEIWPCC), Lauren Townley (for Koon Tang, NYS DEC), Bryan Dore (EPA R1), Sarah Coleman (VT ANR)

GUESTS: Tom Berry (Sen. Leahy's office), Haley Pero (Sen. Sander's office)

Joe Zalewski (NYS DEC) chaired this meeting

INTRODUCTIONS, APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

ACTION ITEM: APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 26, 2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

- **Motion By:** Neil Kamman
- **Second by:** Vic Putman
- **Discussion on the motion:** Vic noted that his vote coming out of Executive Session should have been an abstention. He wasn't able to unmute during the meeting. The 10/26 minutes were edited to reflect this comment.
- **Vote:** All in favor
- **Abstentions:** MaryJo Feuerbach

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comments were made.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT IN 2022

- Eric introduced the topic. The CWA was approved in 1972, 2022 will be the 50th anniversary. Jim has been leading an initiative to commemorate this anniversary. CVNHP held a knowledge cafe around this topic. Jim also gave a presentation to TAC, VTCAC, and HAPAC. There has been lots of interest in this celebration.
- Jim presented and provided some background on the Clean Water Act knowledge cafe. He noted that he is working with a class at UVM to develop a "retro" State of the Lake report highlighting water quality in the Lake from 1942-1972. He encouraged Steering Committee members to share the idea of this celebration widely with their networks.



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- Executive committee members expressed enthusiasm around the LCBP and CVNHP commemorating this anniversary, and shared ideas of how the Education and Outreach and Technical programs could contribute. Ideas included: highlighting the people who contributed to launching the idea for the Clean Water act ("clean water heroes" big and small), tying in LCBP technical work with storytelling opportunities, connecting to Matt Vaughan's historic analysis of water quality parameters, engaging agencies to participate in the celebration, and holding a mock-court reviewing the original arguments for and against the Clean Water act.
- Eric noted that the LCBP staff are also very interested in this project, and that LCBP plans to propose a task in the key functions budget to address this celebration.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATES

- Tom Berry shared information about the ongoing fiscal year 2021 budget process in Congress. The Senate approved an appropriations bill with an allocation for Lake Champlain in the EPA program budget at \$15 million, with \$6 million set aside for implementation of the 2016 TMDL. Senator Leahy was able to establish a National Parks Service (NPS) program for the semi-quincentennial of the American Revolution which will offer grants aimed at State Historic Sites, which could target the Bennington Battle monument. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) sea lamprey control work, National Heritage Partnership program, state revolving fund, and state and foreign operations (which funds the Great Lake Fisheries Commission (GLFC)) line items are all level funded. The International Joint Commission (IJC) Lake Champlain – Richelieu River (LCRR) flood study is funded at \$1.25 million. The National Sea Grant program item received a slight increase in funding, and the bill includes specific language calling out special projects using green infrastructure. Under energy and water, which covers the Army Corps, the aquatic plant program, which supports water chestnut, is funded with a small increase and language encouraging them to continue the control program and potentially begin the use of drones in monitoring. Another program for aquatic plant control includes language encouraging the use of drones and encouraging Army Corps to increase involvement in harmful algae blooms (HABs), which creates the potential for collaboration with the UVM drone lab. The Army Corps is funded for \$80 million, there is strong language reminding the Corps of Lake Champlain environmental infrastructure program and that it should be a priority.
- Executive committee members asked if the language around the WRDA Section 542 program requires the Army Corps to allocate funding towards the environmental infrastructure program and if the EPA is level funded, and if there was funding for addressing HABs in the EPA budget? Tom answered that the Army Corps is strongly encouraged to appropriate funding to the 542 program, the EPA allocation for Lake



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Champlain has seen an increase but that does not necessarily mean that the overall EPA budget is level funded, and that he would check on the HABs question.

- Haley Pero added that there are only 13 working days left in this Congress, so they are focusing on appropriations, and hoping to get the Water Resources Development Act passed. She said her office is looking ahead to the new president and a new Congress, and asked Executive Committee members to send her any ideas or priorities they might have for the new Congress.
- Eric Howe stated that before this call, he had a conversation with a staff member from the Canadian Parliament who represents Ms. Lyne Bessette, the representative for the Brome – Missisquoi jurisdiction, who sits on the Culture and Agriculture Committee. It was a great conversation about Missisquoi Bay, and the representative was interested in learning more about the IJC nutrient study, the MOU for Missisquoi Bay, and PFAS research in Missisquoi Bay. The representative wants to explore ways that the Canadian federal government could provide support for water quality in Missisquoi Bay.

CHAMBLY CANAL ASSESSMENT FOR AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES INTER-BASIN TRANSFER REFERENCE DISCUSSION

- Eric Howe introduced this proposed reference and Meg Modley provided a brief overview of the project need. Canals are the leading vector of aquatic invasive species (AIS) introduction to Lake Champlain and the Chamby Canal may be an unintentional source of inter-basin transfer of AIS. This proposed assessment would be similar to the ongoing Champlain Canal Feasibility Study and it may be beneficial for the IJC to do this reference, coordinated with LCBP, as the Chamby Canal is located in Quebec but the direct benefits of this project would be seen in Lake Champlain within the US.
- Executive committee members were generally supportive of this idea. They had a number of questions about the processes to initiate an IJC study, and Eric noted that he had been in contact with Mike Laita at IJC to coordinate. Overhead costs associated with working through the IJC were discussed. An Executive Committee member suggested including a study on native species, ecosystem, and fish passage impacts as part of the reference as well.
- A question was raised about the potential budget, and it was noted that completing the assessment would require a number of sampling seasons to assess species present in the canal and species pressuring the system. An initial estimate is that the assessment would cost less than \$200,000.
- A number of suggestions were made about ways to complete the assessment without IJC involvement if any difficulties arose with that potential, such as making a workplan that could be implemented either by the IJC or on a more local level and making the decision about IJC involvement as the project develops, running the assessment through



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the technical budget priorities, using GLFC funds, using EPA funds through the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA).

- Meg and Eric agreed to hold a few meetings to begin scoping out the work that would be required to conduct this assessment, ask for assistance from regional partners outside the basin, develop a potential approach and share it with the Executive Committee at an upcoming meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: POLLUTION PREVENTION/HABITAT CONSERVATION AND AIS SPREAD PREVENTION GRANT AWARD DECISIONS

MOTION: TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Motion By: Neil Kamman
- Second by: John Krueger
- Discussion on the motion: None.
- Vote: All in favor

EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION ITEM: APPROVE GRANT AWARD DECISION FOR THE 2020 POLLUTION PREVENTION AND HABITAT CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM AS PRESENTED.

- Motion By: Neil Kamman
- Second by: Pete LaFlamme
- Discussion on the motion: None
- Vote: All in favor
- Abstentions: Pierre Leduc.

ACTION ITEM: APPROVE GRANT AWARD DECISION FOR THE 2020 AIS SPREAD PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM AS PRESENTED.

- Motion By: John Krueger
- Second by: Neil Kamman
- Discussion on the motion: None
- Vote: All in favor

UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

- John: It's not often I get to go back to 1620, but this week, 400 years ago, 41 settlers in Provincetown Harbor signed the Mayflower Compact, which was the first move towards American Democracy. They were settling where they did not have the authority to settle.
- Pierre: Our proposal to the Québec Ministry of the Environment to develop a bi-national phosphorus mass balance model for the Rock River has been accepted. It will be the



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first part of a 2-step project to realize a total phosphorus mass balance for Missisquoi Bay, a priority from the IJC Missisquoi Bay water quality reference. I'd like to thank Andrew Schroth, Neil, Marley, Eric and Matt from LCBP, the Québec Ministry of Agriculture, the Municipalité Régionale de Comté, and Jean-François and Nathalie for the support. We are looking forward to see this job done in the next year and for the next step coming up for the total watershed.

- Eric: Look for the agenda for the December Steering Committee meeting in the next couple of days.

Celebrating the Clean Water Act in 2022

Jim Brangan, LCBP Cultural Heritage and Recreation Coordinator & CVNHP Assistant Director



**Champlain Valley
National Heritage Partnership**





INTERNATIONAL YEAR^{OF} THE SALMON



Champlain Valley
National Heritage Partnership



FREE EVENT

October 5 | Volunteers Green
9:30 - 3:30 | 286 Bridge Street
Richmond, VT

Salmon Festival 2019

Celebrate the return of the salmon!

RICHMOND LIBRARY	VOLUNTEERS GREEN	AUDUBON CENTER
9:30am Salmon Conservation in the Blenheim River presentation	9:30am - 10:30am Guided 2 mile paddle from Green South on Champlain River to Volunteers Green Limited number of permits available - please register* at Volunteering.com or call 802-885-1234	9:30am Opening of Fall Fingertops Landscape exhibit
10:00am Free lunch celebrating International Year of the Salmon production	10:00am - 11:00am Community and partner booths	POST OFFICE
	11:00am - 12:00pm Fly fishing lessons on the Green	11:30am - 1:00pm USPS International Year of the Salmon stamp consultation
		For more information: volunteering.com/salmon

food · activities · exhibits · demonstrations

IYS Grants



LCMM: Exploring the Natural History of Lake Champlain's Salmonid Species



Tickets on Sale Now!

The Year of the Salmon
a Community-Generated Movie

Monday, September 16, 2019
at the **WELDEN THEATRE**
104 North Main Street, St. Albans City, VT 05478

TICKETS \$5 EACH

Seating opens at 5:30pm. Show starts at 6PM.

After-party at Mill River Brewing directly after showing with Stars Reception and "Salmy" Awards!

Entry to the after party is free, thanks to the support of our friends at Mill River Brewing. (Off Lake Street)

Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership

This project would not be possible without the support of the Lake Champlain Basin Program, the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, Northern Access TV, the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge and the talented writers, actors and videographers in the Swanton Community

Canton De Potton

Soyez préparé

- Choisissez un parcours qui correspond à vos capacités et au temps de l'année.
- Portez un équipement de flottaison individuel (PFD).
- Maitiez vous du froid, du vent et des vagues.
- Apportez nourriture, eau et vêtements supplémentaires en cas de changements de température.
- Attention aux risques qui peuvent représenter les hautes eaux, les arbres tombés et les batardeaux dans le défilé, descendez de votre embarcation et allez en reconnaissance.
- Évitez de partir seul : payezez en petits groupes.
- Informez les autres de votre itinéraire.

Be a Responsible Paddler

- Choose an appropriate river or lake for your skill and the time of year.
- Wear a life jacket.
- Be wary of cold, wind and lightning.
- Bring food, water and clothes for changing weather.
- Avoid hazards such as high waters, fallen trees, dams, if in doubt, get out and out.
- Don't paddle alone, keep your group small and together.
- Inform others of your trip plan.

Northern Forest Canoe Trail

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail follows the Missisquoi River in its journey along the international border. For thousands of years, the river has served as a means of travel, providing access to upland hunting grounds, productive fishing holes, and, via the "Grand Portage", a connection to Lake Memphrémagog.

Today, paddlers journeying along this historic waterway will find peaceful waters that can be enjoyed by both beginner and experienced paddlers. It is a pleasant half-day, 12-15 km trip from Mansonville to take-out points near Glen Sutton. Intrepid paddlers can continue west across the international border all the way to Lake Champlain: a 4-5 day, 114 km (71 mile) journey through the Northern Green Mountains – a beautiful and varied landscape. Other "thru-paddlers" chose to paddle and pole upstream, as part of a 700+ mile expedition across the Northern Forest. Enjoy your adventure, big or small!

www.NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org

La rivière Missisquoi est une rivière superspéciale, elle existait avant le coulement des Montagnes Vertes il y a 375 millions d'années. La rivière Missisquoi a longtemps été une zone de pêche productive. Pendant des siècles, le saumon de l'Atlantique se reproduit en amont du lac Champlain vers les rapides en aval des chutes Highgate au Vermont. En amont et dans les affluents l'omble de fontaine fut commun. L'arrivée des bûcherons en 1800 pour reconstruire le moulin à papier à la fin des années 1800 ont décimé ces populations indigènes. La truite brook, l'omble de fontaine et le saumon ont disparus. Le projet de dam et le défrichage de la forêt ont détruit les habitats de la rivière. Les efforts ont été faits pour restaurer la qualité de l'eau de cette rivière, les forêts riveraines, les écosystèmes et les espèces indigènes.

Known as a superspécial river, the Missisquoi existed prior to the uplift of the Green Mountains 375 million years ago. The river has long been a productive habitat. For millennia, Atlantic salmon would journey upstream from Lake Champlain to spawning grounds below Highgate Falls, Upperton, and in the river's tributaries, where brook trout thrived. The arrival of dams and the clearing of the valley's forests in the late 1800s decimated these native populations. Brown trout, brook trout, and Atlantic salmon disappeared. The project of dam and the clearing of the forest destroyed the habitats of the river. Efforts have been made to restore the water quality, riparian forests, ecosystems and native species.

La Rivière Missisquoi traverse le Nord des Montagnes Vertes, qui s'élevèrent de la chaîne Cold Hollow du Vermont jusqu'au nord des monts Sutton au Québec. Ces montagnes font partie de la forêt expérimentale, l'une des forêts de feuilles les plus écologiquement intactes de la planète. En fait, une seule diversité d'oiseaux se reproduit ici, notamment des migrateurs méridionaux tels que le Parula à gorge noire, la Tourterelle du Canada, la Grive des bois et la Grive de Bicknell. Les montagnes abritent une vaste variété de mammifères, et ont permis à des espèces telles que l'ours noir, l'orignal, le lynx et le putois d'y habiter.

Ces organisations telles que la Réserve naturelle des Montagnes Vertes (la plus grande réserve écologique privée au Québec) et Cold Hollow au Canada travaillent pour assurer que ces forêts soit exploitées selon une économie forestière résiliente et qu'elles demeurent intactes pour les générations à venir.

The Missisquoi cuts through the Northern Green Mountains, which straddle from Vermont's Cold Hollow range north to Québec's Sutton Mountains. These mountains are part of the Northern Forest, one of the most ecologically intact, broadleaf forests on the planet. In the summer, a diverse assemblage of birds breed here, including neotropical migrants such as the Black-throated Blue Warbler, Canada Warbler, Wood Thrush, and Bicknell's Thrush. The mountains are home to a variety of mammals, providing room for species such as black bear, moose, bobcats, and fisher to roam.

Organizations such as the Water Valley Land Trust, Nature Conservancy of Canada, and Cold Hollow in Canada are working to ensure these forests and a resilient, forest base economy remain intact for generations to come.

Funded through a Conservation and Community Grant from the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership

Northern Forest Canoe Trail: Gateway to the Missisquoi

Swanton Arts Council: "Year of the Salmon"– A Community Generated Movie

2020 Women's Suffrage

- 2018 CVNHP International Summit, Burlington
- April 2019 LCBP awards seven CVNHP Interpretive Theme Grants
- May 17, 2019 Women's Suffrage Meeting at the LCMM
- 2019 CVNHP International Summit, Venise-en-Quebec
- Champlain Valley Partnership Committee and five geographic subcommittees are collaborating to mark 2020 commemoration
- A set of traveling interpretive panels for socially distant events
- Bringing the celebration into 2021



Fort Ticonderoga Association	Pavilion Collections Project
League of Women Voters of VT	<i>Because of Women Like Her...</i>
Friends of Crown Point	Voting for our Voices: stories of women's suffrage & civil rights
LCMM	Ladies of the Lake – Women Captains on Lake Champlain
Shelburne Historical Society	Women of Shelburne: Community Builders, Past to Present
Chapman Historical Museum	Champlain Valley Suffrage Centennial Motorcade
LCMM	Planning and Preparation for the 2020 Season of <i>Lois McClure</i>

Upcoming Interpretive Themes

2021: Prohibition, Temperance & Smuggling

2022: 50th Anniversary of the 1972 Clean Water Act



Champlain Valley
National Heritage Partnership



We've come a long way,

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THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 1985

Lake Champlain Found to Be Polluted by PCB's

By HAROLD FABER
Special to The New York Times

ALBANY, June 15 — Lake Champlain, a center of tourism in northern New York, is polluted by PCB's, a hazardous chemical, according to the State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The extent and source of the pollution is not known, but the department has discovered that eels caught near the city of Plattsburgh have concentrations of PCB's — polychlorinated biphenyls — almost five times the safe level set by the Federal Government.

Because of those levels, the Health

Department has warned the public not to eat any American eels, the most common variety, taken in the lake near Plattsburgh.

Bullheads Affected

It also warned the public not to eat more than one meal a month of another species, the brown bullhead, because of excessive P.C.B. concentrations. However, most of the fish in the lake, such as bass, trout and Atlantic salmon, show only small traces of PCB's, and there are no restrictions on eating them.

PCB's are a group of chemicals that were used for years in the manufacture

of electrical equipment because of their excellent insulating properties. State and Federal officials consider them to be dangerous because of findings that they can cause cancer in laboratory animals.

The disclosure of the PCB contamination of Lake Champlain came in an announcement by the State Department of Environmental Conservation that it had begun an investigation to determine the source and extent of the pollution.

First Warning

It was the first public warning that the lake had been contaminated by the chemical. However, reports about it

have been circulating among scientists in state agencies for the last year.

The announcement said that a sampling of 15 American eels analyzed in 1984 showed PCB levels between 4.65 and 19.49 parts per million, for an average contamination level of 9.84 parts per million. The Federal level of tolerance of PCB's in fish is 2 parts per million.

"The finding that there is a new location of PCB contamination doesn't surprise us," said Dr. Edward Horn, chief of the Bureau of Environmental Protection at the State Department of Environmental Conservation. "PCB's are ubiquitous. Last year, for example, we found them in one of the Finger Lakes, Lake Canandaigua."

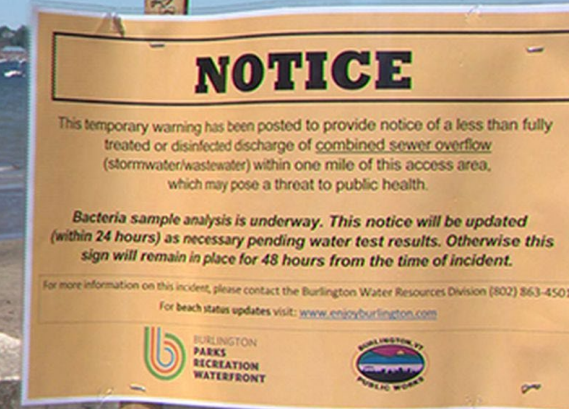
In its latest advisory about the consumption of sports fish caught in New

York, issued last month, the Department of Health added five bodies of water, including Lake Champlain and Lake Canandaigua, to its list of contaminated sources.

It warned the public against eating any lake trout from Fourth Lake in Hamilton and Herkimer Counties because of DDT levels, any splake longer than 12 inches from Long Pond in Lewis County because of mercury contamination and any American eel or white perch from Kinderhook Lake in Columbia County because of PCB's.

State officials consider the Hudson River to be the body of water in the state most dangerously polluted by

but we've got a long way to go...



Champlain Valley
National Heritage Partnership



How can the LCBP Help?

- EPA Regions 1 & 2; Water Quality Agencies Networking
- Preproposal ROD in Dec./Full Proposal ROD in Feb. 2021
- CVNHP Grants announced in April 2021
- Allocating additional resources in the FY2021 Budget
- Clean Water Act grantee/partner meeting June 2021
- CVNHP International Summit Sept. 2021 (Saranac Lake, NY)
- Winter-Spring 2022: Projects begin
- October 18, 2022—50 years!



Champlain Valley
National Heritage Partnership



[DATE]

Ms. Camille Mageau, Secretary
International Joint Commission
Canadian Section
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6K6

Dear Ms. Mageau:

The International Commission has played a critical and vital role in addressing water quality issues in Lake Champlain between the Province of Quebec and the States of Vermont and New York (hereafter “the governments”). Recent IJC references directly addressing water quality include the 2004 reference to examine transboundary impacts of the Missisquoi Bay Causeway, the 2008 reference to support the Missisquoi Bay Basin Critical Source Area Study, and the 2017 reference to examine nutrient loading and impacts in Lake Champlain and Memphremagog. In addition, the IJC has invested significant time, resources, and expertise in the evaluation of flood control measures to alleviate environmental, economic, and human health impacts that effect local communities that live on or near the shores of Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River. Multiple references include the current active Lake Champlain – Richelieu River study from a 2016 reference to Identify Measures to Mitigate Flooding and the Impacts of Flooding, which was preceded by references in 2015, 2012, and in several references throughout the 20th century.

In order to ensure the long-term economic and ecological stability of Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River and their watersheds, the governments of Canada and the United States continue to foster trans-jurisdictional coordination and collaboration of science and management of water quality and flood resiliency and are dedicated to protecting native habitats and species that are threatened by aquatic invasive species. The governments recommend that the Lake Champlain Basin Program coordinate additional actions be taken to evaluate inter-basin transfer of aquatic invasive species between the St. Lawrence and Richelieu River systems and Lake Champlain and examine potential economic and ecological impacts to Lake Champlain.

As of 2020, Lake Champlain is home to 51 known aquatic non-native and invasive plant, animal, and pathogen species. Canal ways have been documented as the leading pathway by which these organisms enter Lake Champlain. There is a possibility that these invasive species may find their way into Lake Champlain and become established, displacing native species and severely impacting water quality and the lake ecosystem. Commonly known species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water flea, water chestnut, and zebra mussels cost millions of dollars annually in the Lake Champlain basin to manage or to mitigate ecological impacts. These species have degraded the health of Lake Champlain’s ecosystem by clogging waterways and navigation channels limiting access for boats and swimming, blocking water intake pipes, displacing native, rare, threatened

and endangered species, transporting pathogens, reducing shoreline property values, encrusting historic shipwrecks, and threatening vital fisheries on the cusp of re-establishment after decades of management efforts.

LCBP and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are evaluating ways to limit inter-basin transfer of aquatic invasive species in the Champlain Canal in the southern end of Lake Champlain. An assessment of the threat of inter-basin transfer of aquatic invasive species between the Richelieu River and St. Lawrence Seaway and the Champlain drainage via the Chambly Canal is recommended to complement this current study. Invasive species in the Richelieu River, such as round goby and quagga mussels, that would otherwise be deterred by cascades and waterfalls at various points in the Richelieu River could transit the Chambly Canal and enter northern Lake Champlain.

The Commission is requested to produce a report with its response to this reference within twenty-four months from the date of this reference. The governments request the Commission to pursue this assessment expeditiously, and to make periodic reports to the governments, as appropriate. Reporting should include IJC plans to engage, in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program, with federal governments and the Province of Quebec, First Nations, tribes and states, and with a wider group of stakeholders and sharing the assessment with the public.

The governments recognize there may be an opportunity to consider this work in the context of the current 2016 reference examining flood mitigation efforts in the Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Corridor. If this occurs, additional funding should be provided to support this expansion of scope for the 2016 reference.

Similar letters will be sent to Mr. Charles Lawson, Secretary of the United States Section of the IJC.

Lake Champlain Basin Program Updates

Lake Champlain Executive Committee meeting, September 8, 2020

- Most LCBP staff continue to work remotely or in isolation due to COVID-19, although some staff do return to the office for scheduled time in Grand Isle as needed. All staff have been set up with necessary tools to complete their work remotely for the foreseeable future.
- Most LCBP Boat Launch Stewards closed out their season a few weeks earlier than normal this year, due to new requirements from their academic institutions to self-isolate or to return to campus earlier for isolation due to COVID-19 concerns. Boat traffic at public launches was greater than in previous years.
- The LCBP Continuous Process Improvement project has been completed. This project, sponsored by VT ANR, was initiated to look at our budget development process and resulted in some reductions in process and a few changes that will be implemented over the course of the next 9-12 months. Two major changes include a new “Steering Committee Summit” in June of each year to identify specific funding themes around each of the four OFA goals, and the E&O committee will transition to a competitive process.
- COVID relief grants – In Mid-May, LCBP awarded 14 small grants for emergency support related to COVID-19 budget gaps. These grants are nearly all wrapped up now. Most grant recipients have expressed gratitude for this support. LCBP staff have not heard from watershed groups that another round of emergency funding is needed at this time.
- LCBP worked with a consultant and with staff from New York DEC and Vermont ANR to develop a grant writing workshop. This multi-part workshop was kicked off on September 8, with over 40 participants from around the Lake Champlain basin. The workshop series addresses questions related to LCBP, VT, and NY state-supported grant programs, as well as general grant writing tips and tools.
- LCBP is in the process of recruiting a consultant to work with LCBP staff on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues over the next several months. The consultant will conduct a cultural needs assessment of LCBP as an organization, and develop a series of metrics and goals for the organization to work toward, and assistance with development of a DEI strategic plan for LCBP.
- The inaugural Champlain Valley Heritage Times was launched on August 18. Check it out [here](#)!
- NEIWPCC has posted the [NYS DEC Lake Champlain Coordinator](#) position, on behalf of NYDEC and LCBP. This position was vacated in May with Fred Dunlap’s retirement, and will be refilled as a NEIWPCC-hosted position for NY DEC with LCBP funding. This opportunity closes September 18, with interviews anticipated to occur in mid-October.

Lake Champlain Basin Program TAC Updates for the Executive Committee, November 18th, 2020

The TAC met once since the October 26 Executive Committee Meeting.

Reviews and Recommendations

- TAC reviewed and approved the workplan for the project “Water quality conditions and trends for Lake Champlain and its tributaries.” This work will form the basis for *2021 State of the Lake Report* Clean Water section findings, and will inform stakeholders on progress toward water quality goals.
- TAC discussed elements for the upcoming *State of the Lake 2021* report figures and graphics, including CSOs, in-lake phosphorus concentrations, and tributary phosphorus loading.
- TAC reviewed and provided feedback for the “Forest Phosphorus Load Allocation” project, which will be run by VTDEC. An RFP will be issued for this project this winter or spring, depending on the completion of phase 1 of this work.
- TAC reviewed and approved the workplan for the “Consequences of winter perturbations on nutrient export to Lake Champlain” project in partnership with the University of Vermont. This project will improve our understanding of nutrient loading during winter months, especially for increasingly prevalent rain-on-snow events and other effects of climate change.
- TAC reviewed and approved the workplan for the “Volunteer coordination and training for the Lake Champlain cyanobacteria monitoring program, 2021 season” project. This core project is an important component of the strong basin-wide cyanobacteria monitoring network partnership. Work will begin early in 2021.

Upcoming Work

- The December 2nd TAC meeting will be dedicated to the review of the FY21 technical pre-proposals. TAC will form a recommendation to advance a subset of pre-proposals to the full proposal stage. The recommendation will be provided to Steering Committee members for their review.
- TAC will hold a January meeting focused on developing messaging and graphics for the *State of the Lake 2021* report.
- Work to develop the LTMP upgrade is underway, and a plan for siting and sensor deployment is in review by a TAC subcommittee.



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



Heritage Area Program Advisory Committee Report

November 18, 2020

CVNHP Requests for Preproposals

The request for preproposal deadline on November 2 generated 49 preproposals totaling \$573,700 (last year, the steering committee funded \$203,820 to 22 projects). The preproposals included:

- 12 Collections Pre-proposals totaling: \$83,500
- 11 Local Heritage Pre-proposals totaling: \$62,500
- 10 Conservation & Community Pre-proposals totaling: \$68,000
- 9 Special Program Pre-proposals totaling: \$325,700
- 7 Internship Pre-proposals totaling: \$34,000

A team of six reviewers from the HAPAC are reviewing and ranking the preproposals. There are two reviewers from each of the jurisdictions with a gender balance on the review committee. Their findings will be presented at the December meeting of the steering committee.

Knowledge Cafés

Every fall, the CVNHP convene dozens of partners, stakeholders and officials from Vermont, New York and Québec at locations around the region for its International Summit. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 meeting was virtual, with three facilitated virtual knowledge cafés. These hour-long virtual discussions included brief introductions and break-out sessions that allowed partners to build stronger networks and help them better utilize the CVNHP Interpretive Themes in the coming years. About 30 people attended each session. The first café focused on continuing to commemorate Women's Rights into 2021; the second was focused on Prohibition, Temperance and Smuggling next year; and the third introduced the concept of interpreting the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act (CWA) in 2022.

Due to the positive discussions around the final Knowledge Café, the chairs of the HAPAC, the LCBP Technical Advisory Committee, the LCBP Education and Outreach Committee and staff met on October 14 to discuss how the LCBP and CVNHP could focus on the CWA in 2022. Today's presentation will include some of the outcomes of that meeting.

Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network

The LCBP staff continues to work in revitalizing the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network (CABN). The National Park Service sent a documentary film crew to the area last month. The 10-minute film will highlight the work partners are doing (i.e. dam removal, salmon recovery, food programs, etc.)

to achieve the UNESCO Sustainability Goals for the Man and the Biosphere Program. The crew interviewed partners from Lake Champlain Bikeways, Local Motion, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, South Hero Land Trust, Lake Champlain Chapter of Trout Unlimited, ADK Action, Paul Smith's College, and SUNY-ESF. The film will be completed in early 2021.

E&O Committee Report to the Executive Committee November 18, 2020

E&O ADVISORY COMMITTEE

E&O Committee members met in October and November to review the new RFP to be issued soon regarding E&O proposals up to \$50,000. This process will begin to make the E&O proposal process more parallel to TAC and HAPAC processes. On November 16th the Committee hosted a grants workshop to outline the changes that would be upcoming to the award process, and to provide an 18 month calendar for deadlines. The 11 large watershed grants awarded in 2018 -2019 were summarized by recipients so that the committee and participants could ask a limited number of questions. About 35-40 groups participated during the workshop.

RESOURCE ROOM

The Resource Room expanded our hours to five days a week to match ECHO's expanded open hours. Resource Room staff continue to create new exhibit materials, hands on interactive experiences, and update public information. All E&O staff continues to field questions from the public. ECHO has installed a new exhibit on the other side of our common resource wall.



HEALTHY SOILS INITIATIVE-RAISE THE BLADE. Monthly committee members continue to meet monthly. Sea Grant produced a weekly blog through the growing season. *The Other Paper* is promoting *Raise the Blade* and our team provides a weekly column dissemination. Upcoming will be road salt impacts on watersheds and vegetation.



E&O STEWARDS AND OUTREACH

Hannah will continue a few hours a week now that her master's thesis is defended. Sue has been assisting with CVNHP inventory during October and November.

PUBLIC AWARENESS SURVEY RFP The contract was awarded to the University of Vermont a few months ago. The project advisory committee for the project is meeting today, and examples of other watershed surveys have been gathered.

STREAMWISE RFP The Project Advisory Committee has met multiple times with Fluid State Consulting. Community partners have also been participating in the process including representatives from NY, VT and Quebec. The contractor has gathered feedback from the groups a few times and will soon be discussing the award system that will ultimately be put in place to recognize landowners who have protected the riparian buffers on their property. The first product, a resource document about exiting riparian programs, guidelines and outreach materials from the region has been collated and will eventually be available on the LCBP website.

CBEI CBEI partners have released our first monthly enews to Watershed for Every Classroom teachers. Each month a different partner will feature a new project or opportunity as part of our ongoing outreach to support teachers during the pandemic. The second enews which will be released in the next few days and will feature the Watershed Explorer Challenge, created by Lake Champlain Sea Grant with minimal assistance from LCBP. This 32+ page document helps students explore the watershed from home during COVID.

UPCOMING:

- **ARTISTS in RESIDENCE PROGRAM** The contractor, Friends of Winooski, has been chosen for the project which will also involve several schools throughout the Winooski watershed over the next two years.
- **E&O GRANT deadline for large and small E&O grants and Organizational Support is December 21, 2020.**
- **LCBP MAIN WEBSITE:** Ryan is leading this revision with the contractor and will be launched this quarter.
- **AMERICAN REVOLUTION** brochure coordinated by Jim and the HAPAC was designed by Elizabeth.
- **FEDERAL PARTNERS** rackcard has been drafted by Elizabeth and is under review.

EPA Updates from Regions 1 and 2

Executive Committee

November 18, 2020

Grants Management System Blackout

EPA is transitioning from its previous Integrated Grant Management System to the new Next Generation Grant System. This move will not impact how applications are submitted or other actions by grantees, and most processes should remain consistent. However, in order to implement the change, there will be a blackout period from November 18 through December 10 where actions may not be taken to amend current awards. If you have questions, please contact Bryan Dore.

Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive Species Program Report to Congress

In early October, the EPA Great Lakes Nation Program Office in Region 5 (Chicago) submitted the 2019 report to Congress required under the 2018 Vessel Incidental and Discharge Act (VIDA). The document is a summary of existing federal, state, and tribal invasive species activities aligned with the listed purposes of Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive Species Program as set forth under the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act of 2018 and currently supported through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the Lake Champlain Basin Program, state, and other appropriations.