



# LAKE CHAMPLAIN STEERING COMMITTEE SUMMIT MEETING NOTES

**JUNE 2, 2021 8:30AM – 4:00PM**  
(VIA WEBINAR/TELECONFERENCE)

## ATTENDANCE:

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Julie Moore (VTANR) Joe Zalewski (NYS DEC), Stéfanos Bitzakidis for Nathalie Provost (QC MELCC), Vic Putman (Chair, NY CAC), Pierre Leduc (Chair, Quebec CAC), Mark Naud (Chair, VT CAC), Buzz Hoerr (Chair, E&O Committee), John Krueger (Chair, HAPAC), Neil Kamman (Chair, TAC), Mel Cote (EPA R1), Mario Paula (EPA R2 for Rick Balla), Maya Dehner (USACE), Andrew Milliken (USFWS), Breck Bowden (Lake Champlain Sea Grant), Steve Garceau (Quebec Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs), Laura DiPietro and Ryan Patch (VT AAFM for Alyson Eastman), Laura Trieschmann (VT ACCD), Jenn Callahan for Craig DiGiammarino (VTRANS), Joe Giordano (NY Local Municipal Representative – Town of Ticonderoga)

**STAFF:** Eric Howe, Jim Brangan, Colleen Hickey, Ryan Mitchell, Elizabeth Lee, Meg Modley Gilbertson, Matthew Vaughan, Lauren Jenness, Mae Kate Campbell, Katie Darr, Kathy Jarvis, Stephanie Larkin, Laura Hollowell, Susan Hagar, Peter Zaykoski (NEIWPCC), Erin Vennie-Vollrath (LCBP-NYDEC), Lauren Townley (NYS DEC), Julie Berlinski (NYS DEC), Sarah Coleman (LCBP VT ANR), Pete Laflamme (VTANR), Bryan Dore (EPA R1), Rifat Salim (USACE), Susan Sullivan (NEIWPCC), MaryJo Feuerbach (EPA Region 1)

**GUESTS:** Ann Ruzow Holland, Carol Ode, Caroline Rosetti, Jane Lendway, Lee-Ann Wilder, Hannah Neily, Danielle Gato, Jillian Kara, Matthew DiBona, Leigh Walrath; Elissa Tonkin, Curt Gervich, Ryan Cunningham, Charlotte Staats, Amelia Mcreynolds, Amy Overstreet, Margaret Murphy, Lily Delmarche, Elizabeth Whitcher, Bob Fischer, Jackie Bowen, Heather Thompson, Steve Peters, David Miller, Isabelle Charlebois, Anthoni Barbe; Lori Fisher, Andrew Schroth, Jim Connolly, Marli Rupe, James Dawson, Emily Bird, Karen Bates, Vivian Frausto, Kris Stepenuck, Emily Bird, Lou Bresee, Oliver Pierson, Celine Paquette; Samantha James, James Lockridge, Andzej Barwicz, Kelly Cerialo

## MEETING BEGINS

### INTRODUCTIONS

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

### **ACTION ITEM:** APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 13-14 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

- **Motion By:** Andrew Milliken
- **Second by:** John Krueger
- **Discussion on the motion:** None.
- **Vote:** All in favor.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comments were made.

## MORNING INTRODUCTORY SESSION

Eric Howe welcomed all participants to the first LCBP Steering Committee Summit. He introduced Ann Ruzow Holland as the facilitator. Eric provided an overview of the structure of the summit, and the objectives of the discussion, highlighting the four themes of *Opportunities for Action* and the goal of developing budget priorities for each of these themes.



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## **CAFÉ BREAKOUT GROUPS ASSEMBLE**

Steering Committee members and stakeholder participants were organized into small groups to discuss and brainstorm priorities for the budget development cycle.

## **AFTERNOON SUMMIT PLENARY**

Staff worked to combine similar ideas raised in the breakout groups into a list of budget priorities organized by theme. Some overarching concepts were identified as priorities that transcend multiple themes, including diversity, equity, and inclusion, and improved data communication. LCBP staff summarized 1-year and 5-year budget priorities by theme.

### **CLEAN WATER**

Nearly 60 ideas for 1-year clean water budget priorities were submitted. Staff organized them into 9 broad categories:

1. Cyanobacteria: A need to continue understanding how blooms form and how nitrogen, phosphorus, and climate change are affecting cyanobacteria bloom setup. Developing a pilot study to build on the volunteer monitoring base. Exploring ways to prevent or treat blooms.
2. Contaminants: Developing a plan for monitoring levels of contaminants or exposure to contaminants in the environment, interpreting existing data on contaminants, and developing technologies to reduce contaminants.
3. Nutrient reduction: improved phosphorus reduction tracking
4. Infrastructure: Investing in upgrades for wastewater, stormwater, etc.
5. Funding prioritization: Ensuring LCBP funding is targeted towards work that contributes to clean water goals but may not be easily funded by other sources.
6. Ecosystem services: Maximizing the benefits and understanding the economic valuation of clean water.
7. Agriculture: Expanding the FarmPREP program, updating and getting the word out to farmers and agronomists that this tool is ready to use. Expanding education and outreach. Supporting farmers on how best to manage best management practices. Investing in water quality equipment.
8. Climate change: understanding and researching the effects of climate change that will affect the basin moving forward.
9. Monitoring: Looking at trends and causes of trends in water quality parameters. Improving our understanding of development on impervious surfaces and promoting smart development. Building on the Long-Term Monitoring Program with new technologies, and enhancing/expanding the volunteer monitoring program.



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The 5-year budget priority highlights were largely similar to the 1-year highlights, and included ideas such as: improving our understanding of groundwater dynamics, reducing the use of road salts, improving monitoring and understanding of cyanotoxins, and research on climate change.

## HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS

Themes from the 1-year healthy ecosystems priorities included:

1. Habitat restoration and conservation: Riparian areas, wetlands, native species, dams, green stormwater infrastructure, soils, priority watersheds, and marinas.
2. Species restoration and conservation: Including mapping, cold water species, eDNA, wildlife-human conflicts, terrestrial, and fish biological indicators.
3. Invasive species: Early detection, the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA), pathway management, water chestnut, zebra mussels, biologic control, pests.
4. Ecosystem services/Climate change: The Streamwise program, connectivity/conservation, climate change, and carrying capacity.

Themes from the 5-year budget priorities were similar to the 1-year priorities, but provided additional detail:

1. Habitat Restoration and conservation: Assessments and prioritization, wetlands, floodplain connectivity, Missisquoi Bay carrying capacity, green stormwater infrastructure, forest best management practices, fish habitat, and landowner outreach.
2. Species Restoration and Conservation: Native fish restoration, dam removal, fish passage, cool water fish species restoration, in stream habitat, sea lamprey control.
3. Invasive Species: Expanding the boat launch steward program, implementing a barrier in the Champlain Canal, pathway outreach and spread prevention, implementing VIDA.
4. Ecosystem/Climate change
5. Ecosystem health metrics and tracking, climate change impact communication and prediction, identifying habitat restoration priority areas
6. Misc.: Policy assessment

## THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Overall themes from the thriving communities discussion included:

1. Support for the Artist in Residence Program
2. Focusing on climate resilience: Discussion about climate refugees in the future and what affects climate change will bring.



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3. Identifying shoreline and riverside land for potential conservation: One item focused the many significant cultural spots that need to be identified and preserving the sacred artifacts in the ground
4. Research on expanding access opportunities to Lake Champlain, inducing recreation access opportunities for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and underserved communities
5. Increase involvement in lake policy development/stewardship/recreation for First Nations and underserved communities.

Themes from the 1-year budget priorities included:

1. Research on expanding access opportunities
2. Offering a multi-year grant program for organizational capacity building
3. LCBP to consider programs, projects and initiatives that may fall through efforts among different advisory committees
4. Pursuing recreational planning
5. Analyzing where grant dollars have gone at the sub-watershed level to determine if there has been any inequity of resource distribution.
6. The need to make significant outreach efforts to underserved communities to see what they are missing and how we can match with our goals.

Themes from the 5-year budget priorities included:

1. Development of a long-term diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) plan
2. Emphasizing the impact of climate change on communities, tying in the historical context of 1816
3. Analyzing and identifying how basin communities are likely to receive new climate refugees
4. Seek funding and partnerships with stakeholders to preserve shoreline and riverside land
5. Focusing on capacity building assessment/inventory/prioritization and applying an adaptive management approach
6. Continuing teacher trainings to build an understanding of cultural heritage, recreation and work on larger watershed mindset

## **INFORMED AND INVOLVED PUBLIC**

Themes from the 1-year budget priorities included:

1. Identifying targeted audiences



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2. Developing education and outreach opportunities/programs to celebrate success and progress in areas like collaborative cross border interactions, internal efforts, and wastewater treatment plants
3. Developing projects to interpret and communicate projects and programs in other goal/program areas
4. Developing projects that increase data accessibility, interpretation and communication for public engagement
5. Expanding and continuing existing education and outreach programming, with an emphasis on the interpretation of science and bridging the gap with scientists/experts
6. Developing award programs to recognize success and progress

Themes from the 5-year budget priorities included:

1. Communicating climate change impacts to landscapes and communities
2. Developing projects to interpret and communicate projects and programs in other goal area
3. Incorporate the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) themes into the Champlain Basin Education Initiative programming
4. Measuring and communicating the impacts of stewardship behavior
5. DEI/environmental justice
6. Developing projects that increase accessibility, interpretation and communication for public engagement
7. Developing and implementing community science projects
8. Conducting surveys and assessments of program effectiveness, including short-term social media

## **RANKING AND DISCUSSION**

Steering Committee members and summit participants were instructed to rank 1-year and 5-year budget priorities across each theme, with the goal of choosing top priorities for further discussion with the Steering Committee. However, participants raised concerns about some priorities that were submitted being redundant or unclear. Other participants encountered technological problems when trying to rank the priorities, and concerns were raised that this could have impacted the rankings.

The summit participants held a discussion on the initial prioritization of the clean water themes. Top-ranked priorities included:

1. Nutrient Reduction
2. Increasing investments in nature based solutions



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3. Supporting cover crops, tillage, and building soil health
4. Infrastructure: wastewater treatment facility upgrades, stormwater management systems.
5. Climate change
6. Topics related to cyanobacteria

Initial reactions from summit participants to this list of priorities included a suggestion to boost a priority on agricultural chemical monitoring into a higher ranked slot given recent discussion between the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Citizens Advisory Committees (CACs). Participants noted that for the priority on infrastructure, LCBP funding could be best directed to not pay for the infrastructure itself, but to identify ways to support organizations getting access to infrastructure funding. The importance of LCBP funding the planning component that allows access to infrastructure funding was highlighted by several summit participants.

Due to the technological issues encountered and the need for more time to rank the budget priorities, a decision was made to continue this discussion at a later date. Several Summit participants thanked LCBP for organizing this initiative and trying something new with the budget development process.

Eric Howe thanked Lauren Jenness and LCBP staff for considerable behind-the-scenes work to support the summit, and EPA and NEIWPC staff for assistance with facilitation. He thanked participants for their time and feedback on this process, which generated a lot of helpful information to move forward with the budget process and the next edition of *Opportunities for Action*.

# **Welcome to the 2021 Lake Champlain Steering Committee SUMMIT**

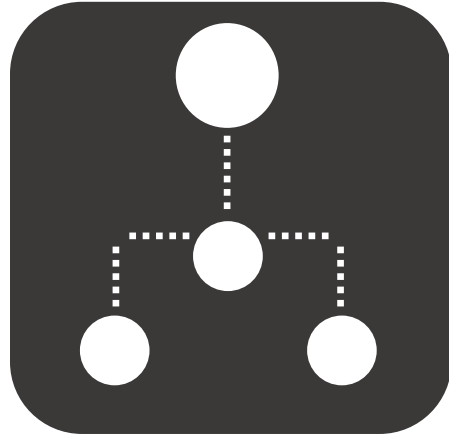




# Overview



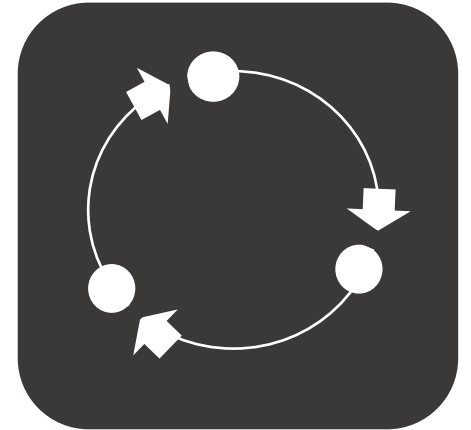
Opportunity  
to hear  
**All**  
voices



Organizational  
structure



Role  
and  
decision  
making



Welcome  
input  
and refine  
process





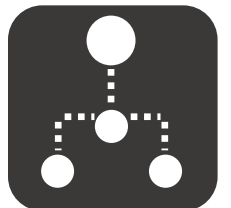
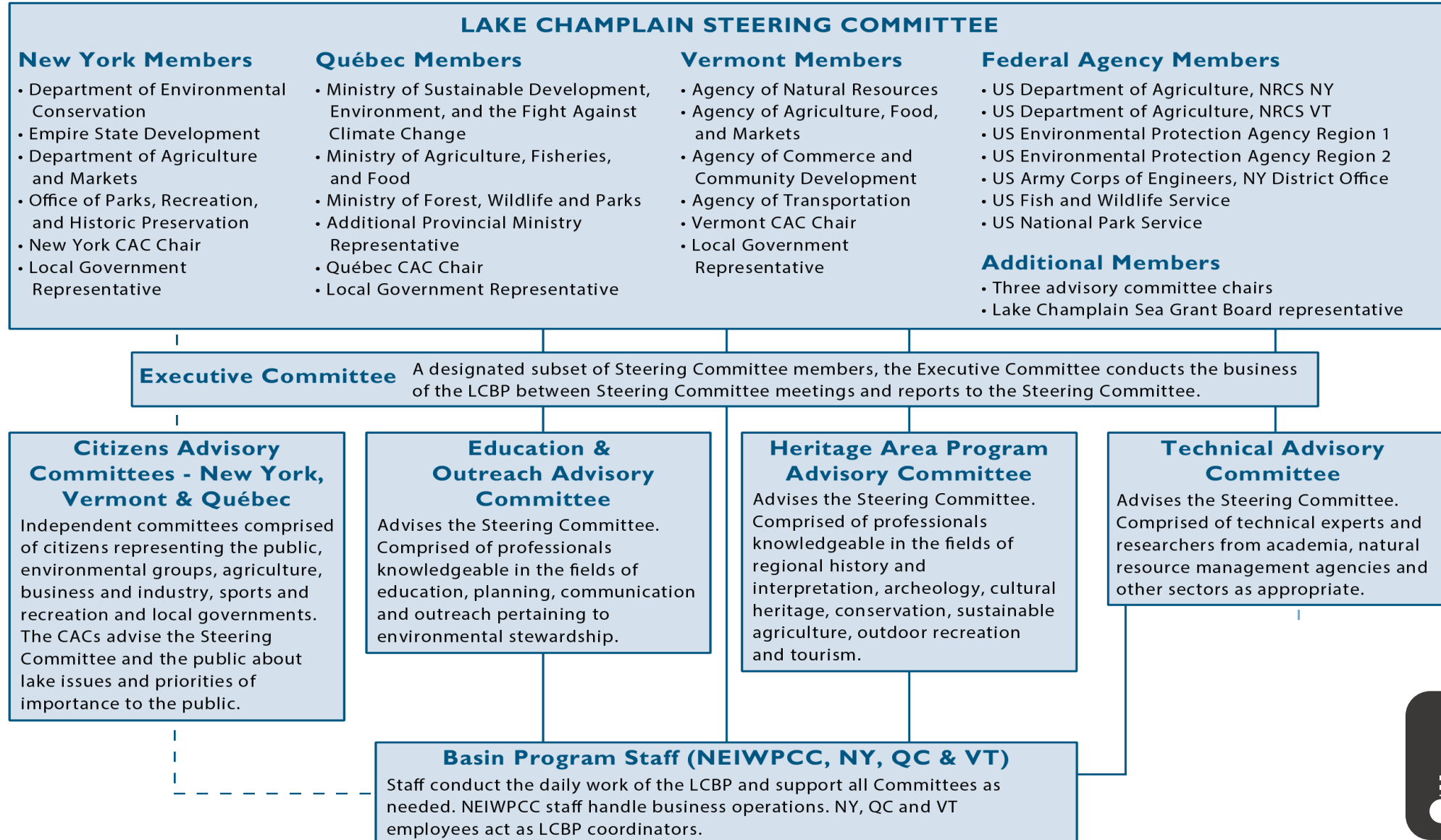
# LCBP Steering Committee SUMMIT purpose

- **Include voices** from Advisory Committees
- **“Themes” to focus** the upcoming LCBP budget
- **All of Opportunities for Action (OFA) is open** – themes will receive higher priority in process
- **Identify priorities for OFA 2022** – begin process for next Management Plan





# LCBP Operating Structure





# LCBP Steering Committee

## LAKE CHAMPLAIN STEERING COMMITTEE

### New York Members

- Department of Environmental Conservation
- Empire State Development
- Department of Agriculture and Markets
- Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
- New York CAC Chair
- Local Government Representative

### Québec Members

- Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment, and the Fight Against Climate Change
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food
- Ministry of Forest, Wildlife and Parks
- Additional Provincial Ministry Representative
- Québec CAC Chair
- Local Government Representative

### Vermont Members

- Agency of Natural Resources
- Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets
- Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- Agency of Transportation
- Vermont CAC Chair
- Local Government Representative

### Federal Agency Members

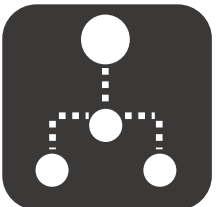
- US Department of Agriculture, NRCS NY
- US Department of Agriculture, NRCS VT
- US Environmental Protection Agency Region 1
- US Environmental Protection Agency Region 2
- US Army Corps of Engineers, NY District Office
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US National Park Service

### Additional Members

- Three advisory committee chairs
- Lake Champlain Sea Grant Board representative

### Executive Committee

A designated subset of Steering Committee members, the Executive Committee conducts the business of the LCBP between Steering Committee meetings and reports to the Steering Committee.





# LCBP Advisory Committees and Program Staff

**Citizens Advisory Committees - New York, Vermont & Québec**

Independent committees comprised of citizens representing the public, environmental groups, agriculture, business and industry, sports and recreation and local governments. The CACs advise the Steering Committee and the public about lake issues and priorities of importance to the public.

**Education & Outreach Advisory Committee**

Advises the Steering Committee. Comprised of professionals knowledgeable in the fields of education, planning, communication and outreach pertaining to environmental stewardship.

**Heritage Area Program Advisory Committee**

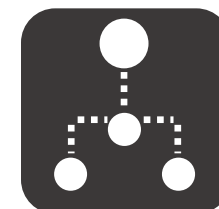
Advises the Steering Committee. Comprised of professionals knowledgeable in the fields of regional history and interpretation, archeology, cultural heritage, conservation, sustainable agriculture, outdoor recreation and tourism.

**Technical Advisory Committee**

Advises the Steering Committee. Comprised of technical experts and researchers from academia, natural resource management agencies and other sectors as appropriate.

**Basin Program Staff (NEIWPCC, NY, QC & VT)**

Staff conduct the daily work of the LCBP and support all Committees as needed. NEIWPCC staff handle business operations. NY, QC and VT employees act as LCBP coordinators.





# Steering Committee Roles and Responsibilities

- **Provide** a forum for discussion of policies and issues of mutual concern
- **Exchange** of information and coordinated actions
- **Set** Annual LCBP budget
- **Review and approve** Lake Champlain Management Plan – *Opportunities for Action* (5-year cycle)





# Steering Committee Roles and Responsibilities

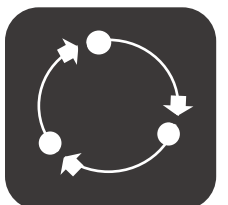
- **Oversee** the coordination of cultural heritage and recreational resource programs of the CVNHP
- **Approve** US Army Corps of Engineers WRDA 542 projects
- **State of the Lake** and Ecosystem Indicators report (3-year cycle)
- **Approve** Committee memberships
- **Approve** Grant awards





# Cross Pollination & Integration of Goal Silos

- cross pollination of groups and committees encourages open and equitable, creative thinking and decision-making
- approach may appear to silo recommendations under a particular Goal/Heading
- budget and OFA process and the work of the committees and staff serve to integrate actions across an integrated network of themes





# Informing Budget and OFA Planning 2021/2022

Collect

Facilitate  
and enable

Give





# Informing Budget and OFA Planning 2021/2022

## Collect

Collect ideas/themes/priorities from various stakeholders and committees for Summit attendees to prioritize, and ultimately Steering Committee to vote on budget/OFA recommendations.



# Informing Budget and OFA Planning 2021/2022

**Facilitate  
and enable**

Facilitate and enable the open flow of conversation across disciplines and interest areas by a deliberate integrated meeting structure.



# Informing Budget and OFA Planning 2021/2022

Give

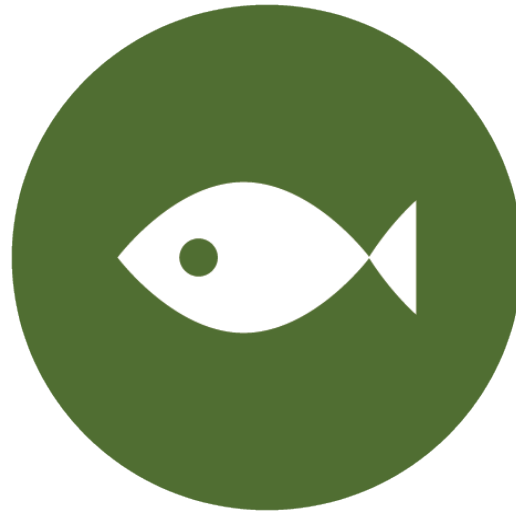
Give a fair and inclusive opportunity to all participants, especially those reticent and quiet voices, staffers, etc.



# OFA Goals



Clean  
Water



Healthy  
Ecosystems



Thriving  
Communities



Informed &  
Involved Public



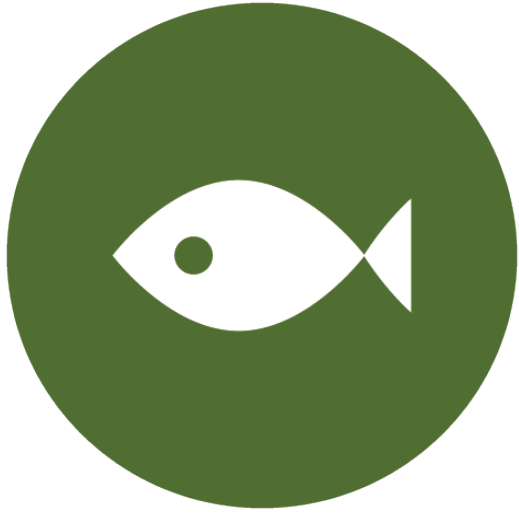
**Improve scientific understanding**

**Contaminants of concern and pathogens**

**Nutrient loading**



# Healthy Ecosystems



**Habitat conservation**

**Aquatic invasive species**

**Enhancement of biodiversity**



# Thriving Communities



**Community support**

**Lake and basin recreation**

**Water-wise economic development**

**Cultural heritage resources**



# Informed and Involved Public



**Enhancement of learning**

**Build awareness**





# Shared ideas mean better ideas

**Collaborative, cross-disciplinary efforts can lead to....**

**New ways** of thinking and approaching an issue or concern.

**Giving (and receiving)** a greater sense of creative input.

**Raising** the visibility and quality of programs.



# The Whole is Greater than the Sum of Its Parts

**Improves** inter-group and interdisciplinary communication to accelerate discoveries and their translation to practice.

**Creates** projects and ideas that originate from relationships, rather than a sole source.



# The Whole is Greater than the Sum of Its Parts

**Creates** projects that emerge from the process, potentially with many interrelated or comprehensive outcomes.

**Builds** respect for each other's expertise, including Lived Experience.

**Challenges** power dynamics, and prioritizes inclusion, equity and diversity.



# How we got here

## **The charge:**

Each of the States, the Province of Quebec, and the EPA, were asked to provide high level themes to develop priorities for the next budget cycle.

The Committee Chairs (with assistance from LCBP staff), provided insights on recent budget priorities and management (budget applied to LCBP, management was more broad/general).



# How we got here

	Clean Water	Healthy Ecosystems	Thriving Communities	Informed & Involved Public
EPA	Modernization of monitoring including autonomous and remote water quality monitoring and eDNA; Phosphorus reduction, coordination & tracking; Harmful Algal Blooms	Aquatic Invasive Species/Vessel Incidental Discharge Act; eDNA	Environmental Justice	
NYSDEC	Climate change			
	Build capacity to address wildlife-human conflicts			
VTDEC	Clean water monitoring/understanding root causes of trends to target efforts	Invasive species early detection, spread prevention and removal; Understanding terrestrial wildlife distribution; Fish & wildlife passage including for Atlantic Salmon.		
	Environmental Justice			
E&O Committee	Nature-Based Solutions and Green Infrastructure		Building Human Infrastructure- Capacity Building Assessment/Inventory/Prioritization: Applying an Adaptive Management approach	
			Access to Lake Champlain Basin's Waters and Recreational Opportunities for All	
E&O Committee	How to encourage people to take personal responsibility via watershed thinking to increase stewardship behavior?	Stream Wise implemented for upstream visibility of stewardship practices, climate resiliency	Helping communities understand resiliency; understanding that we are all connected; watershed awareness and impactful ecological choices	Measure the impact of stewardship behavior/actions over time; continue to educate and inform students and teacher about the watershed issues, pollution solutions, and personal stewardship possibilities; Identifying translation needs and being inclusive in our outreach to underserved communities.
HAPAC	* 2024 Conservation & Community theme - Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network (CABN) * More needs to be done to reach out to enhance diversity, inclusion and equity in interpreting the history and culture of the region.			
TAC	*2022 Conservation & Community theme - 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act	*2023 Corridor of Commerce theme - Bicentennial of the completion of the Champlain Canal	*focus of HAPAC *2025-2027 Making of Nations theme - Semi quincentennial of the American Revolution	
NYCAC	Phosphorus reduction; identify and characterize contaminants	Research and implementation projects for riparian and habitat improvements to protect native species		
NYCAC	Wastewater and stormwater infrastructure improvements			
QCCAC	Reduce the use of fertilizer/pesticide use on farms using a cost-offset program; Implementation of phosphorus reduction projects; WWTTP facility upgrades; green infrastructure projects	Conservation and restoration of wetlands, waterway connections; Monitor benthic health in agricultural intensive areas; Study the carrying capacity of Missisquoi River		
VTAC	climate change			
VTAC	Toxics - agro-industrial chemicals; Increased investment in natural solutions; VAEI lab accessibility to NGOs		Organizational capacity grants for planning and implementation over longer term; Public access;	

Priority Themes Matrix 5/11/21

## Pre-Roundtable Briefing Packets

served as the “seeds” for the pre-Summit conversations held on May 19 and 20 and were submitted by:

EPA

HAPAC

VT

QC CAC

NY

NY CAC

E&O AC

VT CAC

TAC



# May 19<sup>th</sup> Roundtable Event - 39 participants

## 1 year

## 5 year

Group A

Clean Water - 1 year	
Implementation and funding of water infrastructure measures for wastewater infrastructure (WPI) related to L2D events and increased nitrogen loading	Implementation and funding of infrastructure for storm water management (SW)
Phosphorus reduction strategies to prevent phosphorus from entering the lake	Wetland Area Bioreactors (WAB) continue to improve water quality in the lake
Opportunities to use infrastructure funding in both Clean Water and Thriving Communities priorities	Nature-Based Solutions and Green Infrastructure (NBSGI)
Thriving Communities - 1 year	
Support for the planning of the lake to increase the amount of water in the lake (L2D)	Building Public Infrastructure: Learning, Building, Assessment/Planning/Implementation, Reporting on Adaptive Management Approach (PABAR)
Search directed engagement efforts in W200 community group and other groups	Regarding income opportunities in a water for all (WFA) program

Clean Water - 5 year	
Plant research associated with the implementation of W200 and the implementation of W200	Wetland Area Bioreactors (WAB) continue to improve water quality in the lake
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Thriving Communities - 5 year	
Plant research associated with the implementation of W200 and the implementation of W200	Wetland Area Bioreactors (WAB) continue to improve water quality in the lake
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Group B

Clean Water - 1 year	
Water quality monitoring and funding of infrastructure for storm water management (SW)	Wetland Area Bioreactors (WAB) continue to improve water quality in the lake
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Search directed engagement efforts in W200 community group and other groups	Regarding income opportunities in a water for all (WFA) program



## 54

### Clean Water priorities



## 34

### Thriving Communities priorities



5 year

## Group D

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**63**  
Informed &  
Involved  
Public  
priorities



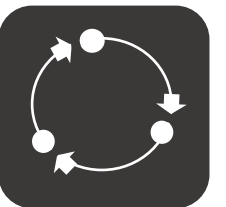
# Next Steps and Roll Out of Goal Integration

1

LCBP staff goal condensed/combined concepts generated in roundtables for each goal.

Ensured that the briefing packet “seeds” of conversation were added.

The priority list was then sent out to the June 2<sup>nd</sup> participants.







# Next Steps and Roll Out of Goal Integration

2

Cohorts A-D will focus today on identifying and filling gaps in the lists and refining those ideas into themes.

Theme Examples:

Address cyanobacteria blooms – TOO VAGUE

Reduce phosphorus loading from barnyards – TOO SPECIFIC

Need to find the sweet spot!



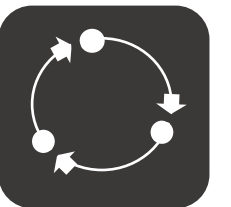


# Next Steps and Roll Out of Goal Integration

3

This is the beginning of the process. Today is about identifying the themes = **“what”**

Over the summer committees will focus on how to incorporate the themes into their programs and processes = **“how”**









# Roundtable Agenda: Morning

## **Morning Rapid Café-style Rounds**

<b>8:00</b>	Morning Virtual Platform Opens
<b>8:30-8:55</b>	Introductory Session
<b>8:55</b>	Café Breakout Groups Assemble
<b>11:30 – 1:30</b>	Mid-day Break



# Café Breakout Groups

Cafés	9:00 - 9:30	9:35 - 10:05	10:10 - 10:40	10:45 - 11:15
 <b>Clean Water</b>	Cohort A	Cohort D	Cohort C	Cohort B
 <b>Healthy Ecosystems</b>	Cohort B	Cohort A	Cohort D	Cohort C
 <b>Thriving Communities</b>	Cohort C	Cohort B	Cohort A	Cohort D
 <b>Informed &amp; Involved Public</b>	Cohort D	Cohort C	Cohort B	Cohort A





# Summit Agenda: Afternoon

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>1:30</b>      | Summit Plenary                           |
| <b>1:45-2:30</b> | Presentation of Preliminary Goal Results |
| <b>2:45-3:00</b> | Health Break                             |
| <b>3:00-3:45</b> | Steering Committee Action                |
| <b>3:45-4:00</b> | Closure                                  |
| <b>Adjourn</b>   |  |



# Key “Questions” for the Morning Café Rounds

Are the recommendations to the Steering Committee for each OFA Goal—both short term (one year) and long term (five years) fairly complete?





# Key “Questions” for the Morning Café Rounds

Are there any gaps in  
the recommendations to  
the Steering Committee  
for each OFA Goal?

If so, please add them.

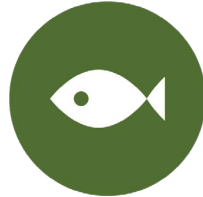




# Key “Questions” for the Morning Café Rounds

Confirm that sticky notes **clearly represent the ideas that the roundtable participants want to share with Steering Committee.**

These will be the ideas that the **Steering Committee will vote on.**







# Key “Questions” for the Morning Café Rounds

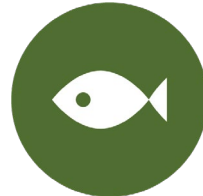
Are the recommendations to the Steering Committee for each OFA Goal—both short term (one year) and long term (five years) fairly complete?

Are there any gaps in the recommendations to the Steering Committee for each OFA Goal?

If so, please add them.





Confirm that sticky notes **clearly represent the ideas that the roundtable participants want to share with Steering Committee.**

These will be the ideas that the **Steering Committee will vote on.**





# Café Team Leaders

Cafés	Facilitator	Notetaker	LCBP Staff
 <b>Clean Water</b>	<b>Danielle</b>	<b>Lily</b>	<b>Matt</b>
 <b>Healthy Ecosystems</b>	<b>Lee-Ann</b>	<b>Amelia</b>	<b>Meg</b>
 <b>Thriving Communities</b>	<b>Liz</b>	<b>Heather</b>	<b>Jim</b>
 <b>Informed &amp; Involved Public</b>	<b>Ellie</b>	<b>Jillian</b>	<b>Colleen</b>



# Logistics and Instructions for AM/PM

Lauren's email

[ljenness@lcbp.org](mailto:ljenness@lcbp.org)

401-533-2374

LCBP Office: 802-372-3213



Break 11:30 – 1:30





# Afternoon Summit

Welcome back!



# Summit Agenda: Afternoon

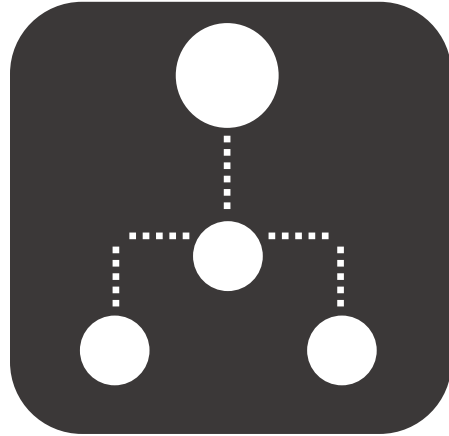
- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>1:30</b>      | Summit Plenary                           |
| <b>1:45-2:30</b> | Presentation of Preliminary Goal Results |
| <b>2:45-3:00</b> | Health Break                             |
| <b>3:00-3:45</b> | Steering Committee Action                |
| <b>3:45-4:00</b> | Closure                                  |
| <b>Adjourn</b>   |  |



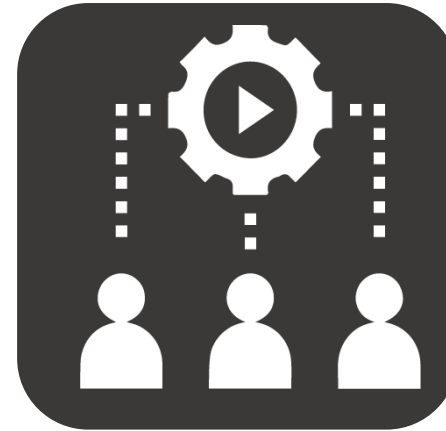
# Overview Recap



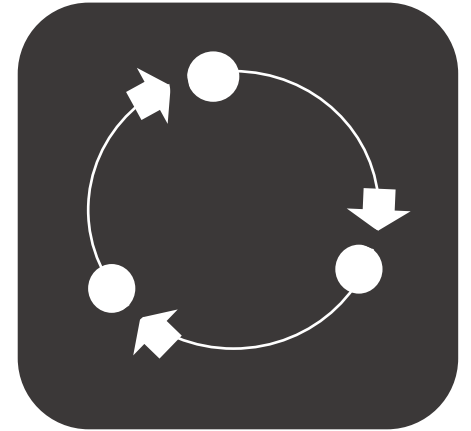
Opportunity  
to hear  
**All**  
voices



Organizational  
structure



Role  
and  
decision  
making



Welcome  
input  
and refine  
process



# Presentation of Preliminary Aggregate

## **Results from IdeaBoardz for each Goal (Roundtables Plus AM Session)**

**1:50-2:00     Clean Water:** Matt

**2:00-2:10     Healthy Ecosystems:** Meg

**2:10-2:20     Thriving Communities:** Jim

**2:20-2:30     Informed and Involved Public:** Colleen

**2:30-2:45     Goal Prioritization:** Participant's use voting platform to:

- Rank top 4 one-year FY22LCBP Budget themes by OFA goal
- Rate each five-year OFA topic for inclusion in the 2022 OFA





# Umbrella Themes

- 1. Assessments for DEI, BIPOC initiatives, and work to prioritize funding and distribute equitably
- 2. Improved data communication
- 3. Support innovative ideas



# Clean Water:



Divided each topic area into three categories:

1. Management-driven and well-designed monitoring and research
2. Existing work – how to continue, refocus, and/or expand
3. Emerging areas of focus



# Clean Water:



Cyanobacteria

Ecosystem services

Contaminants

Agriculture

Nutrient reduction

Climate change

Infrastructure

Monitoring

Funding prioritization



# Clean Water:



## Additional 5-year idea highlights

- Improve understanding of groundwater
- De-icing salt reduction
- Improve monitoring and understand cyanotoxins
- Climate change



# Healthy Ecosystems: Meg



4 broad themes of for FY22 conversation:

1. **Habitat Restoration and Conservation**

(riparian, wetland, native species, AOP/dams, GSI, soils, priority watershed, marinas)

2. **Species Restoration and Conservation**

(map, cool water, eDNA, wildlife human conflict, terrestrial, fish biological indicators)

3. **Invasive Species**

(ED, VIDA, pathway management, water chestnut, zebra mussels, bio control, pests)

4. **Ecosystem Services/Climate Change**

( Stream Wise, Lake Wise, connectivity/conservation/climate change, carrying capacity)



# Healthy Ecosystems: Meg



4 broad themes of for OFA conversation:

1. **Habitat Restoration and Conservation**

(assess and prioritize, wetlands, floodplain connectivity, soils, miss bay carrying capacity, GSI/DEI, housing policy, RTE, forest BMPs, AOP/fish habitat, habitat DEI use (rice) and landowner outreach)

2. **Species Restoration and Conservation**

(native fish species restoration(sturgeon, walleye etc.), dam removal, fish passage, cool water fish species restoration, in-stream habitat, sea lamprey management goals)

3. **Invasive Species**

(expand steward program, implement barrier on Champ Canal, WC management, pathway outreach and spread prevention, implement VIDA)

4. **Ecosystem Services/Climate Change**

(ecosystem health metrics and tracking, climate change impact communication and prediction, ID habitat restoration priority areas)

MISC. Policy assessment



# Thriving Communities: Jim



## **One-Year Budget Themes**

- Artist in Residence Programs
- Focus on climate resilience in the Basin
- Identify shoreline and riverside land for potential conservation
- Research expanding access opportunities to Lake Champlain, including recreational access opportunities for BIPOC and underserved communities
- Increase involvement in lake policy development/stewardship/recreation for First Nations and underserved communities



# Thriving Communities: Jim



- **One-Year Budget Themes**
- Research expanding access opportunities to Lake Champlain
- Offer multi-year grant program for organizational capacity building
- LCBP to consider programs, projects and initiatives that may fall through efforts among TAC, CAC, E&O
- Pursue recreation planning
- Analyze where grant dollars have gone at the sub-watershed level to determine any inequity of resources.





# Thriving Communities: Jim



## Five-Year Budget Themes

- Develop long-term diversity, equity, inclusion plan to diversify LCBP
- Emphasize the impact of climate change on communities, tie in historical context of 1816
- Analyze and identify how Basin communities are likely to receive new climate refugees
- Seek funding and partnerships with stakeholders to preserve prioritized shoreline and riverside land
- Focus on capacity Building  
Assessment/Inventory/Prioritization: Apply an Adaptive Management approach



# Thriving Communities: Jim



## Five-Year Budget Themes

- In 2024, CVNHP will focus on the Conservation and Community theme with a focus on the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere
- From 2025-2027, CVNHP focuses on the Making of Nations theme by highlighting/celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution
- Continue teacher trainings to build understanding of cultural heritage, recreation, and work on larger watershed mindset
- Recreation and Cultural Heritage encourages appreciation, understanding and stewardship of our resources and should be emphasized.



# Thriving Communities: Jim



- Engage underrepresented communities to learn what they think makes a thriving community, and brainstorming ways in which we can connect solutions to community concerns to solutions for Basin-wide issues
- Increase outreach to municipal governments to inform of Lake Champlain Basin programs as well as funding opportunities available (with an emphasis on smaller municipalities)
- Analyze where grant dollars have gone at the sub-watershed level to determine any inequity of resources.



# Informed & Involved Public: Colleen



## One-Year Budget Themes

- Identify targeted audiences and develop E&O program
- Develop E&O opportunities/programs to celebrate successes and progress - collaborative cross-border and international efforts, WWTFs
- Develop projects to interpret and communicate projects and programs in other goal/program areas
- Develop projects that increase data accessibility, interpretation and communication for public engagement
- Expand and continue existing E&O programming, with emphasis on interpretation of science and bridging the gap with scientists/experts
- Develop award programs to recognize successes and progress



# Informed & Involved Public: Colleen



## Five-Year Budget Themes

- Communicating climate change impacts to landscapes and communities
- Develop projects to interpret and communicate projects and programs in other goal/program areas
- Incorporate the CVNHP themes into the CBEI programming.
- Measure and communicate impacts of stewardship behavior
- DEI/Environmental Justice
- Develop projects that increase data accessibility, interpretation and communication for public engagement
- Develop and implement community science projects
- Develop education
- Surveys and assessments of program effectiveness, including short-term social media



# Goal Prioritization

## **Participant's use voting platform to rank:**

- Rank top 4 one-year FY22LCBP Budget themes by OFA goal
- Rate each five-year OFA topic for inclusion in the 2022 OFA



# Goal Prioritization – Access to Poll

**slido** Go to [slido.com](https://slido.com) enter code # 858285

**Joining as a participant?**

# Enter code here



(how it should appear  
on your screen)

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**Or** use this QR code



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**Or** copy and paste URL into browser tab

<https://app.sli.do/event/t6mqtfwd/live/polls>



## slido

Rank LCBP FY22 Budget Themes &  
Rate LCBP 2022 OFA Themes

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.





# Clean Water



Support projects that achieve multiple co-benefits with investments in natural solutions, such as habitat enhancement, shoreline protection, flood resilience and ecological restoration practices to achieve multiple OFA goals



# Clean Water



Focus on improving soil health on agricultural lands across the basin. Support includes technical support and education and outreach programming to producers about benefits and techniques to improve soil health. Grant programs would support NY SWCD, VT



# Clean Water



Fund wastewater and stormwater infrastructure improvements, especially green stormwater infrastructure, with assistance to communities to build community acceptance to invest in their WWTF and DWTF infrastructure



Continue to quantify the economic value of clean water to the Lake Champlain Basin



# Clean Water



Develop plan for non-nutrient contaminant monitoring, including agrochemicals, to close knowledge gaps related to public and ecosystem health (37%)



# Healthy Ecosystems



Continue to support the watercraft inspection and decontamination program for Lake Champlain to address overland transport and introduction of AIS and add one decontamination station for the VT side of LC



# Healthy Ecosystems



Support AIS spread prevention and early detection programs across the Basin, including a comprehensive Lake Champlain AIS ED monitoring program, using new technologies.



# Healthy Ecosystems



Support programs to create opportunities to conserve and restore critical lands for habitat of vulnerable species

Identify priority watersheds to target restoration over a larger landscape





# Healthy Ecosystems



Support advancements in technological water quality/quantity monitoring to improve understanding of ecosystem health, provide insight into existing resource areas of concern such as critical habitat, improvements to modeling of flooding or spill plumes or HABs.



# Healthy Ecosystems



Support work to quantify ecosystem benefits of water quality improvements to incentivize funding and implementation of TMDLs



# Thriving Communities



Identify and prioritize shoreline and riverside land for potential conservation and public access for traditionally underserved communities with a focus on sites of cultural, archaeological, and historic significance.

Support climate resilience in the Basin: Community resilience, understanding connections, and addressing education gaps

Pursue recreation planning and strategic, integrated approaches to funding initiatives that restore and protect natural assets and increase public access and recreational co-benefits.



# Informed & Involved Public





# Steering Committee Action

## **Summit recommendations for Annual Budget Themes for next cycle.**

- Review
- Discussion
- Vote

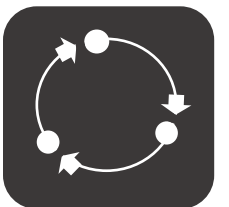




# Acknowledgements

## **Thank you!!!**

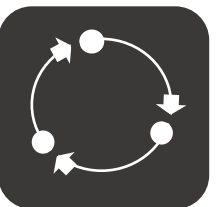
- Lake Champlain Steering Committee
- Participants
- Facilitators and Notetakers (EPA, NEIWPCC, SUNY Plattsburgh, UVM)
- Ann Ruzow Holland
- Elizabeth Lee
- Lauren Jenness





**Thank you!!!**

Follow up evaluation survey/comment period on the event process



ID	Topic area
1	Agriculture
2	Agriculture
3	Agriculture
4	Agriculture
5	Agriculture
6	Climate Change
7	Contaminants
8	Contaminants
9	Contaminants
10	Cyanobacteria
11	Cyanobacteria
12	Cyanobacteria
13	Cyanobacteria
14	Cyanobacteria
15	Economic valuation
16	Ecosystem services
17	Ecosystem services
18	Ecosystem services
19	Funding
20	Funding
21	Funding



22	Funding
23	Funding
24	Infrastructure
25	Infrastructure
26	Infrastructure
27	Infrastructure
28	Interpretation and communication
29	Monitoring
30	Monitoring
31	Monitoring
32	Monitoring
33	Nutrient reduction
34	Nutrient reduction
35	Nutrient reduction
36	Nutrient reduction
37	Nutrient reduction
38	Nutrient reduction
39	Nutrient reduction
40	Nutrient reduction
41	Nutrient reduction

42	Soil health
43	Technical assistance
44	Wastewater

LCBP FY22 Budget (1 year) - Clean Water Priority Description	Submitted by
Education & outreach to expand the use of FarmPREP	
Identify ways to reduce agrochemical application	
Implementation and funding of manure incorporation measures. Modify regulations concerning the application and incorporation of manure in agricultural fields (related to issues with nitrogen loading)	
Promote farmer education on the importance of best practices (e.g. not applying manure before rain)	
Interpretation of science, technological transfer to farms and yield insurance program. An insurance program designed to offset any loss of net revenue in well-controlled trials would allow local demonstration sites to be set up.	PL
Effects and adaptations of climate change in the Lake Champlain Basin - separate project and/or integrate into all work. Determine impacts on phosphorus cycling, frequency / intensity of storms and erosion, etc	EPA
Develop plan for non-nutrient contaminant monitoring, including agrochemicals	MV; VTCAC
Interpretation and communication for existing contaminant data (agrochemical, chloride, PFAS, lead, mercury, DBPs, etc)	
Close knowledge gaps to identify and quantify effects of contamination on public health, ecosystem health and sustainability of drinking water systems, recreation, aesthetics and economic viability	
Incorporate cyanotoxin monitoring as part of the Lake Champlain Cyanobacteria Monitoring Program	BO
Improving predictive capacity for cyanobacteria blooms	AS, EPA
Develop pilot to build upon volunteer cyanobacteria monitoring by incorporating sensors, satellite images, other new technologies and techniques	MV
Explore new ways to prevent and/or treat cyanobacteria blooms	
Improve understanding of cyanobacteria dynamics. Determine whether nitrogen is affecting where blooms occur. Determine how will climate change affect this. Consider extent of internal loading	EPA
Improve our quantification of the economic value of clean water (and/or cost of environmental problems like cyanobacteria blooms) to the Lake Champlain Basin	EPA
Conduct study of the carrying capacity of the Missisquoi river to ensure the preservation of its natural and cultural features.	QCCAC
Maximize social and environmental co-benefits through nature-based solutions with equity and inclusion as a central focus. Target communities that may be disproportionately impacted by water quality concerns, such as hazardous algal blooms, phosphorus pollution, and flood hazards. Pursue nature-based solutions such as green stormwater infrastructure, protection of riparian habitat, and natural resource restoration.	VTDEC
Increased investment in Natural solutions (habitat enhancement, shoreline protection, flood resilience) and eco-restoration, not more research, or more proportional to research	VTCAC
Determine how to incentivize NY and VT municipalities to spend American Rescue Plan Act funds and other federal funds on clean water investments	
Implementation and funding of infrastructures for storm water management	NF
Explore opportunities to use infrastructure funding in both Clean Water and Thriving Communities priorities	

Invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure improvements. Seek practices that provide multiple improvements from GI (water quality, habitat, flood protection)	RW, MF
Invest in necessary clean water infrastructure projects for financially disadvantaged system users or districts	VP
Water quality infrastructure including wastewater treatment, stormwater management and drinking water systems that address point source discharges as well as non-point source pollutants for safe consumption, recreation, economic development and agriculture sustainability.	VP; NYCAC
Increase investments in nature-based Solutions and green infrastructure	RW
Fund upgrade of WWTP facilities in Frelighsburg and Notre-Dame-de-Stanbridge to current standards	QCCAC
Fund green infrastructures in Bedford to improve stormwater management	QCCAC
Expand State of the Lake interpretation and improve communication	MV
Build upon the long-term monitoring program by incorporating more buoys, sensors, analytes, eDNA, etc.	MV, EPA
Improve coordination and collaboration with other regional monitoring programs (USGS, etc)	VP
LCBP has done a lot of water quality monitoring throughout the basin including all the major tributaries and has done a lot of analysis on the trends. A next step is to understand the root causes of these trends, so that we can target our resources to address the underlying problems.	NYSDEC
Improve VAEI lab accessibility to NGOs	VTAC
Support IJC recommendation for bi-national task force for Missisquoi Bay. Align monitoring methods. Look for areas of overlap with IJC flood study. Regular reporting, education and outreach opportunities.	
Improve understanding of how different forms of phosphorus will impact water quality goals, how these forms will change with certain BMPs, land use change, lake conditions, etc	
Phosphorus reduction coordination & tracking, especially to provide consistency across the basin	RW
Accounting for reduction in phosphorus for accurate tracking across all jurisdictions. Improvement and development of tracking methods where needed. What are the gaps in knowledge? Do we know contributions from all sources, such as groundwater?	EPA
What is the current state of New York TMDL? Does it need an update? Accounting for reductions to track full-Basin reductions	EPA
Bi-national task force to guide development of coordinated action plans, monitoring methods, per IJC recommendation. Coordination on Missisquoi Bay phosphorus mass balance study and recommendations. Update Vermont/Quebec MOU on phosphorus reduction commitments.	EPA
Fund implementation of recommendations made in IRDA's cost/benefit analysis of management practices to reduce phosphorus by 40% in the bi-national Rock river basin	QCCAC
Fund implementation of actions developed by the Missisquoi bay bi-national phosphorus reduction task force (LCBP subcommittee)	QCCAC
Continue work to research and implement phosphorus load reduction efforts in collaboration with LCBP partners	

Support efforts to embrace cover crops, reduced tillage, buffers, etc. in an effort to build soil health on a lands. Incorporate education/outreach to landowners to support implementation of clean water BMPs	RC
Establish consistent technical assistance for small scale stormwater/erosion bmps to ensure effective implementation	
Implementation and funding of corrective measures for wastewater infrastructures (related to CSO events and increased nitrogen loading)	NF

ID	Topic area
1	Agriculture
2	Agriculture
3	Agriculture
4	Climate Change
5	Cyanobacteria
6	De-icing salts
7	De-icing salts
8	Infrastructure
9	Monitoring
10	Monitoring
11	Monitoring
12	Monitoring
13	Nutrient reduction
14	Nutrient reduction
15	Restoration
16	Wastewater

LCBP 2022 Opportunities For Action (5 year) - Clean Water Priority Description	Submitted by
Education & outreach to expand the use of FarmPREP	
Increase support for comprehensive nutrient management planning, especially for small farms	
Research and support identified ways to reduce agrochemical application. Trials should include the use of bio fertilizers and bio pesticides as alternatives to conventional amendments on selected field plots.	
Continued research and understanding of impact of climate change on clean water	
Improve monitoring and understanding of cyanotoxins	
Continuation/expansion of road salt research and reporting throughout the watershed - Consider impacts and alternatives	JVB
Support de-icing salt reduction through municipal and state road salt reduction programs	
Fund green infrastructure projects to reduce stormwater flows to decrease overwhelming WWTPs	
Establish benthic health monitoring in several brooks in agriculture-intensive and other areas of the basin. May help see the positive impact of BMPs (phosphorus, sediment or pesticide reduction) more rapidly and encourage further action.	PL; QCCAC Priority
Including autonomous and remote water quality monitoring and increased use of eDNA	RW
Build upon volunteer cyanobacteria monitoring with sensors, satellite images, other new technologies and techniques	
Expand clean water monitoring, especially to understand root causes of trends to target efforts/investments	RW
Close knowledge gaps on internal nutrient loading in key areas of the lake and determine how to address this issue	
Quantify the mass balance, forms, and transportation routes of phosphorus for the entire Lake Champlain Basin	
Expand Streamwise program with a focus on outreach/education and funding for implementation of riparian buffers	
Increase investment in core service area and encourage building in these areas to effectively treat PFAS, microplastics, etc. and reduce forest fragmentation/septic services	RF

ID	Topic area
1	AIS early detection and monitoring/climate change: VIDA implementation
2	AIS early detection and monitoring/climate change: VIDA implementation
3	AIS education and outreach: overland watercraft transport
4	AIS management: water chestnut
5	AIS research: biocontrol
6	AIS research: impacts
7	AIS spread prevention: outreach
8	AIS: canal pathway spread prevention
9	Contaminants of Emerging Concern: technology development
10	Contaminants of Emerging Concern: marina monitoring
11	Cyanobacteria
12	Data Communication (umbrella)
13	Ecosystem Services: carrying capacity research
14	Ecosystem Services: water quality monitoring/mapping
15	Fish Habitat
16	Habitat Restoration
17	Habitat restoration/climate resiliency: implementation
18	Habitat restoration: AOP
19	Habitat restoration: AOP
20	Habitat Restoration: GSI implementation focus on equity and inclusion



21	Habitat Restoration: riparian, wetlands, native species
22	Habitat Restoration: riparian, wetlands, native species
23	Habitat Restoration: riparian, wetlands, native species
24	Habitat Restoration: riparian, wetlands, native species
25	Healthy Soils
26	Host Conference (umbrella)
27	Invasive Species: pest containment
28	Native Species Restoration
29	Species biodiversity monitoring: eDNA
30	Species biodiversity monitoring: terrestrial wildlife
31	Species management: wildlife-human conflicts

LCBP FY22 Budget (1 year) - Healthy Ecosystems Priority Description	Submitted by
Continue and expand Great Lakes-Lake Champlain IS program (VIDA) , especially if future support under VIDA is provided. How/will climate change impact spread in Basin? Monitoring approaches/technology.	MP; EPA Priority
Continuing to support the aquatic invasive species spread prevention program is a priority. Along with a strong prevention program, the basin needs to increase its early detection capabilities through new monitoring approaches and innovative technology	NYSDEC Priority
Continue to support the watercraft inspection and decontamination program for Lake Champlain to address overland transport and introduction of AIS and add one decontamination station for the VT side of LC	MM
Continue the program for surveying for and removal of water chestnut in the Lake Champlain basin	NYSDEC Priority
Support research to improve implementation of biological controls focused on addressing long established aquatic	LW
Research and monitor impact of zebra mussels to the Lake's food web ahead of quagga mussel infestation	
Create materials detailing the threats of non-native species and meet with key anglers to explain the reasons why we examine boats and stop them for a check.	BH
Secure resources for the Champlain Canal AIS barrier selected alternative full design and EIS	MM
Maker space innovation contest to develop technologies/tools for reducing contaminants	CG
Assess contaminant prevention practices at marinas	CG
Better understanding/monitoring of widespread low-level cyanobacteria blooms in the lake	WA
coordinate priority data for communication and improve ease of access to those data for the public	
Fund a project to analyze the cultural and natural feature carrying capacity of individual sections of the LCB. Intersections with Informed & Involved Public that include opportunities for outreach materials: maps and graphics.	
Continue to support the existing efforts and look to expand the monitoring of water temperature in the tributaries with priority to the salmon rivers	NYSDEC Priority
Identify and conserve cold water refuges in Lake Champlain Tribs.	WA
Use trout and salmon as a biological indicator of habitat quality and success and need for habitat restoration.	WA
Streamwise implemented for upstream visibility of stewardship practices, climate resiliency	E&O Committee Priority
Continue work with NYS Dam Task Force on plans to increase fish passage in region	EV; NYSDEC Priority
Continue work on increasing tributary connectivity	NYSDEC Priority
Maximize social and environmental co-benefits through nature-based solutions with equity and inclusion as a central focus. Target communities that may be disproportionately impacted by water quality concerns, such as hazardous algal blooms, phosphorus pollution, and flood hazards. Pursue nature-based solutions such as Green Stormwater Infrastructure, protection of riparian habitat, and natural resource restoration.	

Prioritize, implement and assess restoration and conservation projects in Lake Champlain Basin tributaries and watersheds that increase the resilience of these tributaries and the lake and support native fish wildlife and plants under current and predicted future conditions including Riparian restoration, Wetland restoration, Floodplain reconnection and restoration, Instream restoration, Aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial connectivity	AM
A healthy ecosystem is confirmed by monitoring data that demonstrates how Best Management Practices are achieving the desired outcomes of a healthy ecosystem. Advancements in technological water quality/quantity monitoring could improve understanding of ecosystem health, provide insight into existing resource areas of concern such as critical habitat, improvements to modeling of flooding or spill plumes or HAB's.	VP
Fund conservation and restoration of key wetlands. Maintain or establish connection with waterways to support the habitat of native species and water quality.	QCCAC Priority
increase investments in direct riparian and aquatic habitat improvements to protect native species, and for research to better direct future resources toward these efforts.	
Development of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) / healthy soils assessment tools that fill defined needs for partners implementing PES or Payment for Performance systems in the Lake Champlain Basin, and that support the LCBP mission.	RP
Host water quality monitoring conference that allows agencies and other involved organizations to coordinate activities and foster partnership moving forward.	
Track hemlock wooly adelgid in Lake George watershed to ensure containment and limit additional spread in LCB.	MHM
Map vulnerable native species	EV
eDNA and apps for phones to address problems in biodiversity monitoring by pairing volunteer community scientists. See CALeDNA <a href="https://ucedna.com/">https://ucedna.com/</a> for example	WA
Increasing our understanding of terrestrial wildlife distribution and abundance through standardized camera trap surveys	NYSDEC Priority
Building capacity for communities to address and resolve wildlife-human conflicts	NYSDEC Priority

ID	Topic area
1	Aquatic Invasive Species/Boat Launch Steward Program
2	Aquatic Invasive Species: canal pathway
3	Aquatic Invasive Species: management
4	Aquatic Invasive Species: pathway spread prevention
5	Aquatic Invasive Species: VIDA implementation
6	Climate Change: monitor/research
7	Climate Change: monitor/research
8	Climate Change: monitor/research
9	Data
10	Fish Habitat
11	Fish Habitat
12	Fish Reproduction
13	Fish Reproduction
14	Fish Reproduction
15	Floodplain Restoration
16	Habitat Assessment
17	Habitat Restoration for species
18	Habitat Restoration priority areas
19	Habitat Restoration priority areas
20	Habitat restoration: GSI implementation
21	Habitat Restoration: wetlands
22	Healthy Soils
23	Looking Ahead

24	Policy Assessment
25	Policy for housing development
26	Public Outreach
27	Public Outreach

LCBP 2022 Opportunities For Action (5 year) - Healthy Ecosystems Priority Description	Submitted by
Consider boat wash stations long-term plan for LC (and potentially other inland lakes) - strategic placement of stewards and decon units based on data collected by the program to strategically address landscape level spread of AIS with limited	
Implement AIS barrier in Champlain Canal and assess need in Chambly Canal	
Continue to support survey and removal of water chestnut in the Lake Champlain basin.	EV
Address other pathways of AIS introduction and spread: water gardening, aquarium/spiritual releases, bait, etc.	MM
Continue and expand Great Lakes-Lake Champlain IS program (VIDA); implement early detection and monitoring for AIS in LC	MP/MM
Increase understanding of predicted impacts of a changing climate including inc. freq floods, increased air and water	WA
Impacts of climate change on ecosystem health and function	
Tracking metrics to show changes in ecosystem health over time	
Support funding for upgrades to streamgage network and public access to those data	
Continue restoring river-runs of landlocked Atlantic salmon. Address limiting factors in rivers and lakes. Including fish passage, sediment input into streams, instream habitat such as large wood and river access to flood plain.	WA
Continue work to improve the fishery in Lake Champlain and its tribs, incl. everything from dam removal to lamprey and cormorant management	
Continue work to understand lake sturgeon populations and work to provide more access to historical spawning locations.	MHM
Increase historic salmon habitat access and increase all aquatic organism passage in the basin's watershed	
Research on fish communities and tracking juvenile lake trout reproduction to better understand long-term changes in wild	MHM
Increase stream restoration (miles) buffered and planted streams	
Conduct study of the carrying capacity of the Missisquoi river to ensure the preservation of its natural and cultural features.	QCCAC Priority
Habitat restoration projects for species of high conservation need (rare, threatened, and endangered)	
Preserve existing natural habitat and leverage those places to engage the public; establish goals for protected areas	
Prioritize, implement and assess restoration and conservation projects in Lake Champlain Basin tributaries and watersheds that	AM
Maximize social and environmental co-benefits through nature-based solutions with equity and inclusion as a central focus. Target communities that may be disproportionately impacted by water quality concerns, such as hazardous algal blooms, phosphorus pollution, and flood hazards. Pursue nature-based solutions such as Green Stormwater Infrastructure, protection of riparian habitat, and natural resource restoration.	PL
Preserve existing wetlands and restore some	SB
Focus on restoring healthy soils that store carbon and nutrients through shifting agricultural practices and restoration of riparian areas, floodplains, wetlands, shrublands and forest.	AM
we need to look at greater issues (coming in the future) that will come up that we will need to focus on	

Conduct a state/local "policy coherence assessment" to identify policies that contradict or pose obstacles to healthy ecosystems goal	CG
Prioritize housing development and increase funding for infrastructure in the core service areas where emerging contaminants	RF
Compile different opportunities for land owners (central resource)	
Not enough science gets to the actors in the field and could be improved	

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ID	Topic area	LCBP FY22 Budget (1 year) - Thriving Communities Priority Description
1	Artist in Residence Program	Continue Artist in Residence programs to incorporate the arts into interpreting the Lake and the issues it faces. This could be core item of E&O annual grant program.
2	Build Human Infrastructure	Focus on capacity Building Assessment/Inventory/Prioritization: Apply an Adaptive Management approach
3	Build Human Infrastructure	Encourage workforce development for clean water project development activities.
4	Climate Change	Highlight climate change (VT Commission)
5	Community Resilience via watershed thinking	Focus on helping communities understand resiliency; understanding that we are all connected; watershed awareness and impactful ecological choices.
6	Conservation	Identify and prioritize shoreline and riverside land for potential conservation and public access
7	CVNHP Theme	The LCBP and CVNHP should mark the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act (October 18, 2022) (Conservation and Community)
8	CVNHP Theme	In 2023 CVNHP should highlight the Corridor of Commerce theme by focusing on the bicentennial of the completion of the Champlain Canal to further OFA goals
9	DEI/Environmental Justice	Expand access opportunities to Lake Champlain and the basin as a whole for all. Recreation as a gateway for stewardship.
10	DEI/Environmental Justice/Increase Recreational Access	The LCBP needs to increase recreational access for all in Lake Champlain Basin. Recreation as a gateway to stewardship ESPECIALLY FOR FIRST TIME ENGAGERS, AND THOSE TRADITIONALLY LEFT OUT OF LAKE RELATED RECREATION, provide a variety of kinds of recreation and look for opportunities to educate participants on the
11	Environmental Justice	Ensure that programs and grant opportunities are representative of the Basin and its residents, and that all residents are represented within committees of the Program
12	Funding	Organizational capacity grants for planning and implementation over longer term (improving utilization of data/mapping tools), rather than just annual implementation projects with match
13	Grant Funding	LCBP to consider programs, projects and initiatives that may fall through efforts among TAC, CAC, E&O (i.e. items that don't fit neatly in LCBP funding structure: e.g. social science-related work)
14	Recreation	Pursue recreation planning and strategic, integrated approaches to funding initiatives that restore and protect natural assets and increase public access and recreational co-benefits.
15	Recreation	Pursue recreation planning and strategic, integrated approaches to funding initiatives that restore and protect natural assets and increase public access and recreational co-benefits.

Submitted by
RW; VTDEC Priority
NK
VTAC Priority
E&O Committee Priority
JK
EPA Priority
VTAC Priority; transferred from IIP
transferred from IIP roundtable priority
VTDEC Priority

ID	Topic area
1	Build Human Infrastructure/DEI/Environmental Justice
2	Climate Change
3	Climate Migration
4	Conservation
5	CVNHP Theme
6	CVNHP Theme
7	CVNHP Theme
8	CVNHP Theme
9	CVNHP Theme
10	DEI/Environmental Justice
11	DEI/Environmental Justice
12	Education
13	Grant Funding Communication
14	Local Policy Assessment

15	Recreation
16	Recreation
17	Recreation for Stewardship
18	Stewardship Communication

LCBP 2022 Opportunities For Action (5 year) - Thriving Communities Priority Description	Submitted by
Develop capacity to support organizations that do not normally receive funding with financial and technical resources, and target organizations in priority, and underserved watersheds	AO; transferred from IIP roundtable priority
Emphasize the impact of climate change on communities, tie in historical context of 1816: The Year Without a Summer when the effects of the massive volcanic eruption of eruption of Mount Tambora caused hard frosts every month of the year in the Basin causing widespread food shortages.	
Analyze and identify how Basin communities are likely to receive new climate migration residents and how this will affect the Basin as a whole (wastewater infrastructure, water quality, etc.)	
Seek funding and partnerships with stakeholders to preserve prioritized shoreline and riverside land in the Basin for erosion control and recreation opportunities.	
In 2023 CVNHP suggested focus on the Corridor of Commerce theme by focusing on the bicentennial of the completion of the Champlain Canal to further OFA goals	
In 2024, CVNHP will focus on the Conservation and Community theme by highlighting/celebrating the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network (CABN) Region and LCBP connections to further OFA goals.	JB
There will be a full solar eclipse of the sun on April 8, 2024. The arc will traverse the Basin from Saranac Lake, Lake Placid, Wilmington, NY, northeast to Jay, VT. Complete solar eclipses are major tourist events and this will give us an opportunity to capitalize on the attraction. The LCBP and CVNHP should mark the event in a meaningful way.	
From 2025-2027 CVNHP focuses on the Making of Nations theme by highlighting/celebrating the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution. Will be INCLUSIVE and interpret civics. Tie in that protection of the common good provided by public waters is also a civic obligation. Incorporate Artist in Residence program and specifically draw in New American communities	
In 2024, CVNHP will focus on the Conservation and Community theme by highlighting/celebrating the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network Region and LCBP connections to further OFA goals.	
Develop long-term diversity, equity, inclusion plan to diversify LCBP leadership and staff, as well as for grants and education programs.	CG
Prioritize environmental justice improvements.	
Continue teacher trainings to build understanding of cultural heritage, recreation, and work on larger watershed mindset	
Analyze where grant dollars have gone at the sub-watershed level to determine any inequity of resources.	
Facilitate a coherent assessment of municipal policies in the basin and analyze synergies/tradeoffs in those policies that impact the lake.	CG

Encourage access to Lake Champlain Basin's Waters for a diversity of recreational opportunities for all	PL; transferred from IIP roundtable priority
Focus on recreation access in the South Lake area. Identify needs at current access areas, potential new access areas, and think about related support/EO activities that can be focused/conducted at these locations	Transferred from IIP roundtable priority
Recreation encourages appreciation, understanding and stewardship of our resources and should be emphasized.	
Understanding our past and the resources that represent our cultural heritage is critical in fostering the appreciation that leads to their stewardship	

ID	Topic area
1	Climate Change Resiliency
2	Climate Change Resiliency
3	Cross Committee Collaboration for Public Outreach
4	Cultural Heritage Communication
5	CVNHP Theme
6	CVNHP Theme
7	CVNHP Theme
8	Data Metrics
9	Data Metrics
10	DEI/Env Justice
11	DEI/Env. Justice
12	DEI/Env. Justice
13	DEI/Env. Justice
14	DEI/Env. Justice
15	Grant Funding Criteria Review
16	Grant Funding CVNHP



17	Grant Funding for Maps
18	Public Outreach
19	Public Outreach
20	Public Outreach
21	Public Outreach
22	Public outreach TOPIC: Community Science
23	Public Outreach Audience: Local govt
24	Public Outreach Audience: Teachers
25	Public Outreach TOPIC: mentorship
26	Public outreach TOPIC: Stewardship
27	Public Outreach TOPIC: Toolkit
28	

LCBP 2022 Opportunities For Action (5 year) - Informed & Involved Public Priority Description	Submitted by
Communicate messaging about resiliency as we face climate change, maybe as part of CABN	AM
Help understand what lake and landscape changes are/will occur due to climate change and why resilience is only part of it.	LW
Keep an eye on TAC and HAPAC projects that have need of an education component that our team could support with written materials, videos, etc.	BH
Understanding of our past and the resources that represent our cultural heritage is critical in fostering the appreciation that leads to their stewardship.	JK
It has been suggested that the CVNHP focus on the bicentennial of the completion of the Champlain Canal (Corridor of Commerce) in 2023	JK
Celebrate Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network Region (Conservation and Community) in 2024.	JK
From 2025-2027, the CVNHP will focus on the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution (Making of Nations).	JK
Measure the impact of stewardship behavior/actions over time (AO);target and track behavior change for citizen implementation of BMPs - raise the blade, scoop the poop, plant native, clean drain dry, etc. COMBINED W ROW 11	AO; E&O Committee Priority
Develop a metric that react more quickly to BMPs and allow to show progress. Current long term metrics (P) are discouraging	PL
Greater emphasis on Environmental Justice	MP
identifying translation needs and being inclusive in our outreach to underserved communities	AO
Identify and address watershed issues of concern for New American communities (go into communities to learn about what information should be interpreted, translated, addressed)	
Provide greater opportunities to involve and engage under-served communities and a more diverse community members. Consider providing stipends to increase participation.	LF
Working to meet people where they are and educate/inform on the importance of healthy ecosystems with understanding of language and cultural differences. Recognize the work they do is important and develop strategies to improve ecosystem health concurrently	MHM
LCBP priorities also influence the formulation of selection criteria for financed grant projects. The adherence to the given evaluation criteria by evaluators should be revised to avoid misunderstandings and contribute to the improvement of trust level in the process of the projects evaluation. Decision makers on the different levels of administration should be motivated to act by clear incentives for environmental projects implementations/contributions, etc., in order to reduce the bureaucratic attitude and inertia	AB
The CVNHP is the only national heritage area that provides funding for projects in Quebec (funds from the Great Lakes Fishery Commission).	JK

Develop visual maps that welcome people to the watershed, introduce native lands, highlight local subwatersheds, introduce key attributes, each local map can have some representation done by local artists that would be promoted through a competitive grant process to build awareness. All the maps would be linked, and help promote a sense of shared but diverse identity.	LF
Strengthen the feedback loop between 'experts' and the 'public'. Make sure the 'experts' are answering questions relevant in the public's mind.	LJ
Develop outreach that simplifies understanding of technical information	SH
reach the middle group (we address K-12, and already committed individuals well)	
Develop a story that reflects what is good for the water quality is good for our entire basin/region/area	
Increase community science to engage and develop stewardship for the basin	
Outreach to local non-expert decision making boards(e.g. planning, zoning, economic development)about intersections of science and policy	
continue developing the network of educators impact on who teach about the watersheds. They have a tremendous multiplier impact on learning	
Develop mentorship program with high schools pairing students with MS/Elem school students to encourage watershed stewardship and DEI	MHM
Focus on stewardship opportunities through many avenues--recreation, education, helping the public to connect the dots btwn their actions and water quality	
Develop/support E&O training or tool boxes to help technical professionals better engage with the general public.	LW
Develop a process for facilitating development of shared mental model of the LCRR social-ecological system among NY/VT/QCstakeholders	CG

















ID	Topic area
1	Assessment/Inventory/Prioritization: Applying an Adaptive Management approach
2	AUDIENCE: DPW crews Road Salt Outreach
3	AUDIENCE: Educate students/teachers
4	AUDIENCE: Outreach to Farmers
5	AUDIENCE: Recreational users for stewardship
6	Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act
7	Collaboration with Bi-National Phosphorus Task Force
8	Cross Committee Outreach Collaboration
9	DATA accessibility for public engagement
10	DATA accessibility for public engagement
11	DATA accessibility for public engagement
12	DATA accessibility for public engagement
13	DEI/Environmental Justice
14	DEI/Environmental Justice
15	DEI/Environmental Justice

16	DEI/Environmental Justice
17	DEI/Environmental Justice/Build Human Infrastructure
18	Public Communication
19	Public Communication
20	Public Communication
21	Public Communication
22	Support watershed Groups
23	Targeting Public Communication
24	TOPIC: Cyanobacteria Outreach
25	TOPIC: Community Science
26	TOPIC: re Stewardship actions
27	TOPIC: Wastewater treatment

LCBP FY22 Budget (1 year) - Informed & Involved Public Priority Description	Submitted by
Establish a shared foundation for priority setting and goals for environmental justice in Lake Champlain Basin. Pursue technical and targeted outreach to address barriers and obstacles to project implementation and community engagement (farmers, municipalities, private landowners, private roads, foresters) through community based social marketing. Apply an adaptive management approach and shared learning around environmental justice through watershed-based planning and	VTDEC Priority
Outreach to municipal and state highway departments regarding salt reduction in the entire watershed	
continue to inform students and teachers about the watershed issues, pollution solutions, and personal stewardship possibilities - – strong multiplier effect; Row 29 combined here.	AO; E&O Committee Priority
Interpretation of science, technological transfer to farms and yield insurance program. An insurance program designed to offset any loss of net revenue in well-controlled trials would allow local demonstration sites to be set up.	PL; QCCAC Priority
Use recreation as a way to engage the public and encourage stewardship	SL
celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act and bring awareness to its impact and how Lake Champlain fits into this	AO
Creation of a bi-national phosphorus reduction task force for Missisquoi bay. = A huge E&O opportunity. This task force will inform the public on actions on the other side of the border for water we share.	
Collaboration: Improved education and outreach to support technical program	transferred from CW
Providing real time data for tributaries engages the public by providing information that is consequential today, down town, upstream or downstream impacts.	VP
Public access to water quality/quantity data is intrinsic to public policy and management. Also, the public's engagement of water quality in the time of facebook and other social media requires an adaptive approach to improve access and	VP
engage the public at as many venues as possible given the new state of the Lake report availability. Seek cool opportunities to do so. Leverage audiences that can boost message via multiplier effect (e.g. teachers, marinas, etc.)	CH
Continue State of the Lake report; prioritize accessible documents and information citizens who speak other languages (interpretation & inclusion)	
Provide greater opportunities to involve and engage under-served communities and a more diverse community members. Consider providing stipends to equalize opportunities for participation.	LF
identifying translation needs and being inclusive in our outreach to underserved communities including work with native peoples; combined with line 12 to include native peoples.	AO; E&O Committee Priority
ADA compliance for in-person/virtual/hybrid meetings to ensure full, accessible public participation- expand to include broadening access and accessibility to the lake and its tribs	KD

Establish a shared foundation for priority setting and goals for Environmental Justice in Lake Champlain Basin.	
Community engagement, workforce development, build organizational capacity and technical coordination, with diversity, equity, and inclusion at the center. Develop capacity to support organizations that do not normally receive funding with financial and technical resources, and target organizations in priority, and underserved watersheds. Pursue strategic, integrated approaches across grant programs with more coordinated communication to achieve co-benefits and increase access to opportunities.	VTDEC Priority
Increase communication of publically visible projects - signage for installations of scientific equipment and interpretation support for activities on the lake or in the watershed (e.g. explanations of mechanical harvesting while equipment is on the lake)	
Watershed mindset--stewardship of upstream communities. How do we encourage more people to take personal responsibility via "watershed" thinking not just end users who benefit; for drinking water, recreation or business purposes; unless folks are directly involved in recreation or water uses at the lake edge they still may not realize their impact...if people don't see the value of the clean water as much, how do you get them to increase stewardship behavior	E&O Committee Priority
Make the science more accessible to the general public.	
Celebrating successes	
Continued support for watershed groups which provide on-the-ground projects/community earning	SL
More nuanced understanding of our target audiences to improve communication and science outreach	KD
improve public understanding of Harmful Algal Blooms -- Identification, causes, prevention (Combined with CW:HAB reduction through outreach)	
Increase opportunities for community science projects	EV
Emphasize individual stewardship actions to improve water quality and the ecosystem including participate in local groups	
Learning more about the wastewater projects that have been done and should be done in this area.	LB

# Lake Champlain Federal Partners Workgroup

## Update for 6/2/2021 Steering Committee Meeting

*This workgroup meets quarterly at the convenience of the members to review the status of their activities in the Lake Champlain Basin, to assess the future work that each agency may be conducting in the Basin, to coordinate with the LCBP budget process, and to identify opportunities for cooperative and/or collaborative work to implement priority actions in Opportunities for Action.*

### On-Going Workgroup Projects:

#### **1. Creation of a 2021 Lake Champlain Federal Partners Rack Card & Webpage**

- A rack card and associated webpage on the LCBP website has been created to highlight the current work of the Federal Partners and the collaborative efforts taking place in the basin. These materials are planned to be made publicly available at the same time as the 2021 State of the Lake Report.
- Webpage: <https://www.lcbp.org/about-us/people/partners/federal-partners/>
- Rack Card: <https://www.lcbp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Federal-Partners-Rack-Card.pdf>

#### **2. Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) Mapping for Lake Champlain**

- The workgroup recognized the importance of creating nationally consistent NOAA maps for the Lake Champlain shoreline so that incident responders from across the country are able to respond rapidly in the case of an oil or chemical spill. A full update on this work can be found [here](#).

#### **3. Compilation of Resources: Hydrodynamic Modeling of Lake Champlain**

- The workgroup identified a need to better understand the state of hydrodynamic modeling in the Lake Champlain Basin, given the importance of hydrodynamic models to improving our understanding of lake dynamics. This white paper summarizes current models and identifies unmet information needs. [Link to the report](#).

### List of Partner Presentations since September 2019:

Topic	Presenter	Date
Update on the creation of the new Vermont Water Quality Councils	Neil Kamman	April 2021
The inundation frequency and phosphorus retention capacity of floodplains: Development of a framework to support Lake Champlain Basin planning	Rebecca Diehl	December 2020
CVNHP 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act	Jim Brangan	September 2020
Overview of the Vermont Agricultural Water Quality Partnership	Alli Lewis	June 2020
Oil spill emergency response planning for Lake Champlain	Jason Scott	April 2020
Ongoing USGS projects within the Lake Champlain Basin	Ben Rau	April 2020
Current Intervale Center Programs and Initiatives	Mandy Fisher	December 2019
Preview of the "CEAP Watershed Project"	Vicky Drew	September 2019

## NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

### Regional Director, Region 5

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### LCBP Steering Committee Update June 2, 2021

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- DEC's annual celebration of '[Outdoors Day](#)' will be held on multiple days this summer and at locations across the state to accommodate social distancing and other COVID-19 precautions. DEC is hosting these events at no cost to attendees as part of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's [Adventure NY Initiative \(PDF, 10 MB\)](#) to connect people to nature and provide increased access to the outdoors so that New Yorkers of all ages and abilities can experience a wide range of hands-on recreational activities. The event in the Lake Champlain Basin will be June 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm at the Boquet River Nature Preserve (Willsboro, Essex County).
- DEC - Division of Water is currently accepting applications for its [Water Quality Improvement Project](#) (WQIP) Program. The WQIP program is a competitive, reimbursement grant program that funds projects that directly address documented water quality impairments or protect a drinking water source. A total of up to \$65 million is available for projects in the following categories: wastewater treatment improvement, nonagricultural nonpoint source abatement and control, land acquisition for source water protection, salt storage, aquatic connectivity restoration, and marine district habitat restoration. Applications are being accepted through the [Consolidated Funding Application \(CFA\)](#) until 4:00 PM on July 30, 2021.
- DEC – Division of Water is also accepting applications for its [Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant](#) (NPG). NPG funds production of planning reports for nonpoint source water quality improvement projects and mapping of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). The program aims to get nonpoint source projects ready for construction and to apply for implementation funding, and to encourage and support cooperation among regulated MS4s to complete mapping of their stormwater system. Applications are being accepted through the [Consolidated Funding Application \(CFA\)](#) until 4:00 PM on July 30, 2021.
- DEC and the Environmental Facilities Corporation are offering grants for the [Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant](#) (EPG) program. Up to \$2.5 million has been made available for this round of the EPG and is available to municipalities to help pay for the initial planning of eligible Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) water quality projects. Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to municipalities to fund engineering and planning to produce an engineering report. Applications are being accepted through the [Consolidated Funding Application \(CFA\)](#) until 4:00 PM on July 30, 2021.



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



- [Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced](#) the award of \$19.95 million in grant funding that was made available through New York State's 2020 Consolidated Funding Application for infrastructure projects that improve water quality. The Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) awarded \$17 million to 20 projects in support of improving water quality and mitigating the effects of climate change. The Engineering Planning Grant (EPG) program awarded \$2.95 million to help 58 municipalities pay for the initial planning for water quality projects. The following projects were awarded in the Lake Champlain Basin:
  - The Town of Ticonderoga was awarded \$1 million for the installation of an effluent heat exchanger system at the water pollution control plant.
  - The Town of Bolton was awarded \$30,000 for an inflow and infiltration study.
  - The Town of Lake George was awarded \$30,000 for an expansion study for the Bolton Road Sewer District.
  - The Town of Peru was awarded \$30,000 for a south side collection evaluation.
  - The Village of Rouses Point was awarded \$30,000 for an inflow and infiltration study.
  - The Town of Ticonderoga was awarded \$100,000 for a collection system evaluation.
- DEC – Office of Climate Change is seeking proposals from qualified organizations to serve as climate leadership coordinators, to provide support services to communities as part of the [Climate Smart Communities Program](#). The selected contractors will engage and support municipal action through outreach, planning, education, and capacity building to local governments and their communities within one of three territories. The contractors will also engage communities in participatory climate future scenario planning, develop climate change adaptation and resilience plans, and convene climate and transportation listening sessions to inform sustainable and low-carbon transportation policies. A Request for Proposal can be requested by sending an email request with full organizational contact info to [climatesmart@dec.ny.gov](mailto:climatesmart@dec.ny.gov). Proposals for the Climate Leaderships Coordinator Services initiative are due by 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 7, 2021.
- DEC's [Climate Smart Communities Grant program](#) is currently accepting applications for competitive, 50/50 matching grants for local governments to implement projects focused on climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas mitigation in the non-power sector. Project types also include certain planning and assessment projects that are part of a strategy to achieve [Climate Smart Communities Certification](#). Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on July 30, 2021. The Request for Applications is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html#CSC>.
- DEC has posted the updated [Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology \(CALM\)](#) on its website. The CALM documents the decision-making process for the assessment of water and establishes minimum quality and quantity requirements for water quality monitoring data that are used in assessment. DEC uses the CALM to evaluate the quality of the state's waters relative to the attainment of DEC [water quality standards](#) and a waterbody's designated best use(s) (i.e., source of water supply, contact recreation, fishing, etc.).

- As part of the development of the 2020/2022 New York State Section 303(d) List of Impaired/TMDL Waters, the public is invited to provide water quality data or information. This data solicitation period began May 19, 2021 and will close on September 27, 2021. DEC will then begin compiling a Draft Section 303(d) List, which will be made available for public review and comment in December 2021. Additional information regarding the Section 303(d) List process can be found in the [May 19th Environmental Notice Bulletin](#) and on [DEC's website](#).
- DEC has launched NYHABS for 2021, the New York harmful algal blooms notification and reporting system. NYHABS features an interactive map that is updated daily with reports of HABs throughout New York. DEC is asking the public and trained algal bloom samplers to send reports of HABs with photos electronically via a [simple, mobile phone-friendly form](#). After DEC and Department of Health (DOH) evaluate the reports, they are posted to [NYHABS](#).
- DEC is collaborating with Stony Brook University and the Lake Agawam community on a new research project to evaluate the potential efficacy of ultrasonic devices to reduce harmful algal blooms (HABs). The technology was deployed on Lake Agawam in the Village of Southampton in late April. Three ultrasonic devices were deployed on floating, solar-powered buoys that combine continuous water quality monitoring, web-based software, and ultrasonic technology to effectively control HABs in real-time. Ultrasonic waves create a sound layer in the top layer of the water, which has a direct impact on the buoyancy of the HABs' cells. The cells will sink to the deeper and darker layers of the water column, where the algae are unable to access light and eventually die. If successful, the technology could be implemented on other water bodies susceptible to HABs.
- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo launched a new initiative to assist with the [stewardship of trailheads across the state](#) and educate trail users before they enter the backcountry. The Adopt-a-Trailhead program is managed by DEC and gives the public the opportunity to support State-led efforts to care for state lands and educate fellow visitors on the value of responsible recreation. Adopt-a-Trailhead volunteers will bolster ongoing efforts to eliminate litter problems and educate trail users about hiker preparedness, thus eliminating the amount of trash left at trailheads and encouraging proper disposal of human waste while in the woods.
- DEC has \$450,000 available in the first round of the State's new 'Regenerate NY' Forestry Cost Share Grant Program. Grant funds are available through New York State's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and managed by DEC's Division of Lands and Forests. Private landowners who own between 10 and 1,000 acres of forest land in New York State may apply for grant awards ranging from a minimum of \$3,000 to a maximum of \$50,000, with a required 25 percent match. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, planting trees, soil scarification, removing competing vegetation that would interfere with seedling establishment and growth, and installation of deer fence. Applicants must work with a private forester to develop their project. Applications can be submitted through the [NYS Grants Gateway](#) and will be accepted until 3 p.m. on October 8, 2021, or until funds are depleted, whichever comes first.