



# LAKE CHAMPLAIN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

**JANUARY 21, 2021 9:45AM – 12:45 PM**  
(VIA WEBINAR/TELECONFERENCE)

## **PARTICIPANTS:**

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

**ADDITIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Rifat Salim (USACE for Maya Dehner), Laura DiPietro (VT AAFM for Alyson Eastman)

**STAFF:** LCBP: Colleen Hickey, Lauren Jenness, Jim Brangan, Ryan Mitchell, Matthew Vaughan, Mae Kate Campbell, Elizabeth Lee, Eric Howe, Meg Modley Gilbertson, Heather Radcliffe (NEIWPC), Peter Zaykoski (NEIWPC), Sarah Coleman (LCBP VT Coordinator; VTANR), Erin Vennie-Vollrath (LCBP NY Coordinator; NYS DEC), Koon Tang (NYS DEC), Julie Berlinski (NYS DEC), Lauren Townley (NYS DEC), Bryan Dore (EPA R1)

**GUESTS:** Tom Berry (Sen. Leahy's office), Kelly Cerialo (Paul Smith's College and CABN), Matt DiBona, (National Wild Turkey Federation)

*Joe Zalewski (NYS DEC) Chaired this meeting.*

## **MEETING BEGINS** **INTRODUCTIONS**

**10:00 AM**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

#### **ACTION ITEM: APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 14, 2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

- **Motion By:** Neil Kamman
- **Second by:** Buzz Hoerr
- **Discussion on the motion:** Neil provided a minor update to page 2 and Pierre noted that the file name had the wrong year. Both edits were incorporated into the meeting summary by Eric Howe.
- **Vote:** All in favor
- **Abstentions:** none

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**10:20 AM**

No public comments were made.

## **CONGRESSIONAL UPDATES**

**10:25 AM**

**Tom Berry:** The 117<sup>th</sup> Congress convened less than 24 hours ago and Senator Leahy has been sworn in as Senate Pro Tempore. Leahy has also moved into the Chair position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, and will continue to serve on the Judiciary and Agriculture Committees. Staff are compiling FY22 priorities for appropriation bills and welcome ideas. Outcomes of the approved FY21 priorities can be shared if there is interest. The initial focus of the new congress is on the senate impeachment trial and the \$1.9 trillion Covid relief proposal.

## **PRESENTATION: CHAMPLAIN-ADIRONDACK BIOSPHERE NETWORK** *(JIM BRANGAN, KELLY CERIALO, PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE)*

**10:30 AM**

Kelly Cerialo and Jim Brangan presented an update on the status and goals of the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network (CABN) and discussed the possibility of adding a part-time NEIWPC/LCBP employee to help CABN coordinate and grow the program within the current LCBP framework. Kelly's presentation can be made available upon request.



## LAKE CHAMPLAIN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - MEETING SUMMARY JANUARY 21, 2021 9:45AM – 12:45 PM

- The Executive Committee asked clarifying questions about what the proposed employee would be accomplishing and expressed interest in supporting the additional 0.2FTE if the budget allows.
- Kelly and Jim discussed that while it would be challenging to extend CABN's current boundaries into Quebec, a benefit of CABN being connected with LCBP is the natural opportunities for cross-border communication.

### KEY FUNCTIONS BUDGET

10:50 AM

Eric Howe reviewed the annual LCBP Key Functions budget and discussed the remaining FY21 budget process steps with the Executive Committee. New budget priorities include funding for (1) a Lake Champlain Research Symposium in 2022, (2) commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, (3) LCBP's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives and (4) CABN Coordination and Outreach.

- The Executive Committee asked clarifying questions about the budget and expressed support for the new priorities. Members also discussed potential budget priorities including the translation of website materials into French and producing LCBP's Opportunities for Action document in 2022.

### FY21 LINE ITEMS REVIEW

11:15 AM

Eric Howe reviewed the line-item requests for the LCBP FY21 budget that will be approved at the April Steering Committee meeting. He focused the conversation specifically on the stormwater master planning and lake watershed action planning State line-item requests that the Executive Committee had previously approved to move into the LCBP FY21 Technical RFPP as priorities for funding.

- The Executive Committee asked clarifying questions as to what projects LCBP has funded that match the two State line-item request priorities.
- The Executive Committee agreed that LCBP will be funding an adequate amount of Lake Watershed Action Plans through their grant programming and therefore that priority does not need to be re-instated as a FY21 budget line-item request.
- The Executive Committee agreed to re-instate the stormwater master planning New York State line-item request in the FY21 budget as LCBP did not receive and fund projects that met the priority.
- The Technical Advisory Committee requested Steering Committee guidance on the number of Lake Watershed Action Plans to fund to ensure equity between project types within their competitive grant process. This conversation will continue at the April Steering Committee meeting.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR GRANT AWARDS

11:30 AM

Members of the public were asked to exit the meeting at this time.

Vic Putman exited the meeting prior to the Executive Session.

#### **MOTION: TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- **Motion By:** Buzz Hoerr
- **Second by:** John Krueger
- **Discussion on the motion:** none
- **Vote:** all in favor
- **Abstentions:** none

#### **EXIT.**

#### **ACTION ITEM: TO APPROVE THE GRANT AWARDS AS PRESENTED IN THE RECORDS OF DECISION FOR EDUCATION & OUTREACH LARGE AND SMALL GRANTS AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT GRANTS**

- **Motion By:** Neil Kamman
- **Second by:** John Krueger
- **Discussion on the motion:** Mary Jo recommended amending the motion to hold funding on one organizational support grant pending a discussion with State partners on



## LAKE CHAMPLAIN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - MEETING SUMMARY JANUARY 21, 2021 9:45AM – 12:45 PM

whether there may be a Vermont/LCBP funding overlap on a portion of the requested project.

- **Vote:** all in favor
- **Abstentions:** Pierre Leduc

**ADJOURN**

**12:45 PM**

# **New York Citizens Advisory Committee (NYCAC) on Lake Champlain's Future**

## **Update for 1/21/2021 Executive Committee Meeting**

The NYCAC has met one time since the last Executive Committee meeting.

- **November 30<sup>th</sup>** – The agenda featured series of four presentations followed by a committee member discussion. Eric Howe, Colleen Hickey, and Lauren Jenness provided an update on LCBP Programming and Initiatives, Jim Brangan provided an update on CVNHP Programming and Initiatives, Mae Kate Campbell provided an update on the work of the IJC, and Myra Lawyer provided an update on Agricultural Programming in New York. The Committee then reviewed the topics brought forth during the first portion of the meeting, discussed committee member nominations, and created an agenda outline for the next meeting which will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Past approved **meeting summaries and materials** are posted at <https://www.lcbp.org/about-us/committees/citizen-advisory-committees/new-york-cac/>

# Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee (VTCAC) on Lake Champlain's Future

## Update for 1/21/2021 Executive Committee Meeting

The VTCAC has met two times since the last Executive Committee meeting on November 18th.

- **December 14<sup>th</sup>** – The agenda featured a “Views on the Future and Economic Sustainability of Dairy Farming in Vermont” panel of seven speakers This was the first in a series of meetings as the CAC considers a diversity of voices on the future of agriculture in VT, and its impacts on water quality in the Lake Champlain Basin. Speakers included Roger Allbee of the VT Water and Dairy Collaborative Action Plan; James Maroney and his advocacy to move to organic dairy and a VT branded processor; both of the CO-OPS (DFA and organic); Marie Audet and Scott Magnan for farmer perspectives; and Maddie Kempner at NOFA-VT. The CAC hoped to hear perspectives on where we are in the industry, challenges and opportunities, especially with any insights from the Covid impacts, and their vision for a sustainable economic and environmental agricultural sector in VT.
- **January 11<sup>th</sup>** – The agenda featured two presentations that focused on presenting information on Vermont’s pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer usage, trends, tracking and reporting efforts, and management and regulation recommendations. Speakers included Cary Giguere, Patti Casey, and Kanika Gandhi from VTAAFM and Nat Shambaugh who is a retired VTAAFM pesticide chemist and member of the Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council. The Committee was especially interested in learning more about glyphosate use trends in the State given the reports of increased cover crops and increased weed controls with those practices. The CAC members also discussed the creation of their annual Legislative Action Plan.

Past approved **meeting summaries and meeting materials** are posted at <https://www.lcbp.org/about-us/committees/citizen-advisory-committees/vermont-cac/>

## Lake Champlain Basin Program TAC Updates for the Executive Committee, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

The TAC met once since the December 15<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting.

### Reviews and Recommendations

The entire January TAC meeting was dedicated to reviewing graphics and messaging for the 2021 *State of the Lake* (SOL) report. TAC members discussed and provided feedback on graphics covering the following topic areas:

#### *Updates to Existing SOL Graphics*

- Mercury in fish tissue
- Sea lamprey wounding rates
- Non-native and invasive species
- Aquatic invasive species (AIS) threats
- Water chestnut coverage
- Boat launch steward program data summary
- A re-imagined tributary nutrient loading graphic

#### *Ideas for New Graphics*

- In-lake nutrient concentrations (N:P ratio)
- Lake water temperature
- Infographic on combined sewer overflows
- Chloride concentrations

In addition, TAC members helped brainstorm other topics that could be highlighted in the aquatic invasive species and Healthy Ecosystems sections in the future, including a map of historic vs. current salmon habitat.

### Upcoming Work

The following items are on the agenda for the February 3<sup>rd</sup> TAC meeting:

- Review of an RFP for the Unifying Stormwater Initiative for stormwater technical assistance on private properties basin-wide.
- Review of the final report for the “Evaluating floodplain potential for sediment and nutrient retention: Development of a framework to assist in Lake Champlain Basin planning” project.
- Review of the interim report for the “Tile drain base flow phosphorus removal using locally-sourced, super adsorbent, shale material - St. George Black” project.
- Review of FY21 TMDL implementation project ideas
- A presentation on the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA).
- Review of additional *State of the Lake* material:
  - Phosphorus loading from wastewater treatment facilities
  - Cyanobacteria alerts
  - Updates to graphics from the Healthy Ecosystems section
  - Beach closures
  - Combined sewer overflows infographic
- Work to develop the LTMP upgrade is underway. We are working with NY and VT to finalize the purchasing plan for in-lake and tributary monitoring buoys.

# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

## Regional Director, Region 5

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## LCBP Executive Committee Update January 21, 2021

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- On December 23, Governor Cuomo announced \$19 million available to municipalities through the Consolidated Funding Application for infrastructure projects that protect or improve water quality. This funding is made available through two programs -- the Green Innovation Grant Program and Engineering Planning Grant Program. Applications for both the Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) and the Engineering Planning Grant Program (EPG) funding must be submitted through the Consolidated Funding Application website by **4 p.m., February 12, 2021**. EFC hosted a webinar to present the GIGP and EPG programs on January 13, 2021, and a recording of the webinar is available on EFC's website [www.efc.ny.gov](http://www.efc.ny.gov).
- DEC is conducting an ice fishing creel survey on the New York waters of Lake Champlain starting January through March. The 2021 ice fishing survey will take place at four access points: Plattsburgh Boat Launch on Cumberland Bay; Willsboro Bay Boat Launch; Bulwagga Bay Campground; and South Bay Boat Launch. This ice fishing survey is part of a larger, two-year effort to survey both ice and open water anglers. Data gathered during these surveys will serve as a baseline to help DEC Fisheries biologists better understand angler use and expectations, while also informing management actions on Lake Champlain. A report summary of the survey results will be made available later in 2021.
- DEC Bureau of Fisheries has developed a draft [Sunfish and Crappie Management Plan](#) that seeks to balance conservation and fishing opportunities for more sustainable fisheries in waters across the State. Comments on the draft plan should be submitted via e-mail to [fishplans@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fishplans@dec.ny.gov) or via mail to Jeff Loukmas, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4753; subject line "Sunfish and Crappie Management Plan." Comments will be accepted through **February 15, 2021**.
- The [SPDES Compliance and Enforcement annual report](#) for state fiscal year 2019/2020 is now available. This report details DEC's compliance and enforcement oversight of facilities permitted under the [State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System](#) (SPDES) and those activities relating to New York State's authorizations under the Clean Water Act. The report also provides a summary of sewage releases reported to DEC as required under the [Sewage Pollution Right to Know \(SPRTK\) Act](#).
- Update on the Lake George Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Treatment - Treatment began Oct. 6, 2020 along the shorelines of Lake George and was conducted over a four-week period by DEC staff. DEC prioritized the infestation at Paradise Bay due to the site's size and levels of infestation. Crews treated 2,374 trees with insecticide on 138 acres of



Paradise Bay and injected insecticides directly into the trunks of 80 trees close to sensitive areas. In addition, the New York State Hemlock Initiative released 620 *Laricobius* beetles, a biological control for HWA, in the treatment area to feed on HWA. Since the initial finding of HWA at Glen Island, DEC and its partners continued to survey for the insect in surrounding areas. These surveys led to new findings of HWA at Shelving Rock; Buck Mountain Trail Head; Dome Island, private property along the southern shore of Lake George in Queensbury; and Moreau Lake State Park. To address the infestation, DEC is planning consecutive annual treatments to treat many of the trees in the infested areas, as well as additional strategies. Spring treatments at Glen Island Campground will begin after ground thaw when trees begin to transpire and will take up insecticides and end before the campground opens for the season. Treatment dates and strategies are being determined and will help limit the spread of HWA and protect accessible priority hemlock resources that provide habitat and water quality protections, opportunities for recreation, and aesthetic benefits.



## **Draft LCBP FFY2021 Budget:**

### **Key Functions**

#### **Summary:**

The Federal Fiscal year 2021 (FFY21) LCBP Key Functions budget reflects the typical recurring costs for LCBP staff, staff support costs, and office expenses. This portion of the overall LCBP budget also includes priorities of the LCBP Director, which include the annual Local Implementation Grant programs that address pollution prevention, habitat conservation, AIS Spread Prevention, and Organizational Support programs. Education & Outreach grants are addressed in the E&O budget. Several new tasks (Tasks 16-19) are proposed in this budget; Tasks 16,17,18 are one-time tasks, and Task 19 would be a new recurring task in the Key Functions annual budget.

This budget reflects reductions in meeting support costs, staff travel and other typical LCBP expenses that were not realized in calendar year 2020 due to COVID-19 constraints. Staff costs are all proposed at level-funding from the FY2020 budget approved by the Steering Committee in April 2020, and the LCBP Office Operations budget is reduced by \$22,000 as a result of unrealized meeting expenses.

Funding source assignments are based on previous years, and are expected to be the same for this budget cycle.

#### **FFY2021 Key Functions Task Descriptions:**

##### **1. Vermont Coordination *EPA to VT***

**Status:** The Steering Committee directs funds to VTANR to provide Vermont Lake Champlain Coordination to facilitate communication and coordination of LCBP and related Lake Champlain management actions that involve Vermont Agencies, serve as a State liaison for the VT Citizens Advisory Committee, and assist the LCBP Program Director in coordinating LCBP activities involving Vermont. In FY2018, funds were added to this task to include support for an 0.3 FTE position to provide assistance with grant management. This additional support was requested due to the increase in funding through the LCBP appropriation. This task is level-funded from FFY20.

**Description:** This task supports the implementation of *Opportunities for Action* in Vermont ANR with a staff member assigned to work closely with the LCBP staff, including coordination of and collaboration with educational and outreach activities. Duties of the Vermont Lake

Champlain Coordinator include:

- Provide liaison and staff support to the Commissioner of VT DEC on LCBP implementation activities, including those of the Water Investment Division.
- **Supervise VT DEC Lake Champlain Grants Manager**, which manages, VTDEC federal LCBP-EPA grants, provides and coordinates technical project management on individual federal and state-funded grants and contracts, and supports clean water project tracking and communications
- Coordinate the work of VT agency staff on the implementation of LCBP projects and activities (VT agency work group) and facilitate communication between LCBP Management and the Secretaries or Commissioners and staff of other Vermont state agencies on Lake Champlain-related activities.
- Serve as State liaison to the Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee on Lake Champlain's Future
- Present information about VT implementation activities to interested groups, the Legislature and at conferences.
- Assist the LCBP Program Director in coordinating funding for implementation activities in Vermont.
- Serves as a VT contact for the public in LCBP outreach and citizen involvement activities conducted in the VT portion of the Lake Champlain Basin.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$162,604;**

## **2. New York Coordination** *EPA to NEIWPC on behalf of NYS*

**Status:** In FFY2020, after a staffing transition, the NY DEC requested that the Steering Committee direct funds to NEIWPC to support this position. This task is level-funded from FFY20.

**Description:** The NYS Lake Champlain Coordinator provides coordination among New York State Agency staff to implement New York's portion of the Lake Champlain Basin Management Plan, and serves as a liaison with NEIWPC, the LCBP Program Director, the Vermont and Quebec Lake Champlain Coordinators, EPA staff, and other staff to facilitate the smooth operations of the Program and NY-related priorities for the Lake Champlain basin. Serves as the State liaison to the NY Citizen's Advisory Committee. This task supports the implementation of *Opportunities for Action* in New York DEC Region 5 with a staff member assigned to the LCBP staff, including provision of grant and contract oversight as needed. Duties of the New York Lake Champlain Coordinator include:

- Provide liaison and staff support to the Regional Director and staff of NYS DEC with LCBP management regarding implementation activities.
- Coordinate participation by NYS DEC staff serving on LCBP technical committees.
- Facilitate Lake Champlain projects funded through the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act.
- Serve as the State liaison to the New York Citizens Advisory Committee.
- Assist the LCBP Program Director in ensuring coordinated efforts among State, Federal, and local agencies and organizations involved in LCBP actions occurring in New York.

- Assist the LCBP Program Director in securing funding for implementation activities in New York from federal, state, local and private sources.
- Organize and administer the budget agreements for LCBP-funded projects in NY receiving support directly from EPA, and with tracking these projects in coordination with the LCBP Program Director.
- Serve as a NY contact for the public in LCBP outreach and citizen involvement activities conducted in the NY portion of the Lake Champlain Basin.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$156,000; (1 FTE)**

### **3. Education and Outreach Coordination**

***EPA, GLFC, NPS (\$210,000) to NEIWPC***

**Status:** This task supports 1.3 FTE: the Education and Outreach Coordinator and 0.3 FTE support position (Technical Associate). This task is level-funded from FFY20.

**Description:** The E&O Coordinator is responsible for oversight for all education and outreach components of LCBP programs, including coordination of the efforts of other LCBP staff working on E&O tasks. This task is carried out by the Education and Outreach (E&O) Coordinator and support staff. It includes the following activities:

- assisting the LCBP Director in providing staff with program management guidance as requested,
- providing lead staff support to the Education and Outreach Advisory Committee,
- coordinating E&O staff implementation of activities defined in the annual workplan,
- delivering community and school presentations,
- drafting the annual E&O operating budget, administering budgeted projects, and assisting the LCBP Director in the financial tracking of E&O projects,
- coordinating opportunities for public involvement in LCBP programs and tasks,
- serving as a project officer for LCBP grant programs, developing RFPs, facilitating workplan development and final report approval, and administering grant programs in the E&O components of the budget,
- sharing LCBP media relations responsibilities,
- representing LCBP on external committees/community projects as assigned,
- coordinating educational initiatives and teacher training programs,
- recruiting, training and supervising E&O volunteers and interns; sharing staffing and supervision responsibilities for the Resource Room at ECHO at the Leahy Center
- serving as co-editor of *Casin' the Basin*, and
- sharing responsibilities for the *Champlain Connection* program development.
- Supervision of LCBP Communication and Publications staff
- Other duties as assigned
- This task line also includes 30% time (~12 hours weekly) for additional LCBP staff to provide assistance to E&O Coordinator position

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$210,000; (1.3 FTE + Fringe, Indirect, Travel, Professional development)**

### **4. Communication and Publications Coordination**

### ***EPA, GLFC (\$275,000) to NEIWPC***

**Status:** This task supports 2.0 FTE, the Communication and Publications Coordinator and the Communication and Publications Associate. This task is level-funded from FY20.

**Description:** The Communication and Publications Coordinator and Associate are responsible for most communications programs and publication of the LCBP, working under supervision of the LCBP Program Director and in coordination with the E&O Coordinator and other LCBP staff.

This task includes (a) technical information system and web maintenance and presentation tasks and (b) the preparation of exhibits, publications, and communication through educational programs and (c) development and presentation of public educational programs as needed.

(a) Technical web maintenance and web presentation of technical and scientific concepts:

- maintaining the LCBP-hosted websites; coordinating required ISP services and related IT consultants,
- maintaining and updating the digital Lake Champlain Atlas project as needed,
- managing production of E-NEWS, (*Casin' the Basin*) serving as co-editor and lead writer,
- coordinating the graphic design and editing for most LCBP publications,
- editing communication products for special LCBP projects,
- coordinating LCBP computer network maintenance with service consultants,
- coordinating computer stations in Grand Isle and in the LCBP Resource Room,

(b) The preparation of exhibits, publications, and communication through educational programs:

- responding to public and student information requests,
- designing and completing LCBP website updates, and related content management,
- writing and preparing exhibits for the Resource Room & ECHO on current LCBP-related research or local grants,
- developing interactive exhibits for students in the Resource Room,
- training staff and volunteers and sharing staffing and supervision for the Resource Room, and
- presenting programs to school and community groups and LCBP committees on occasion.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$275,000; (2 FTE + Fringe, Indirect, Travel, Professional development)**

### **5. Coordination of New York and Vermont Citizen Advisory Committees**

#### ***EPA, GLFC (\$120,000) to NEIWPC***

**Status:** Created in FY20, this task supports 0.8 FTE: The CAC Coordinator. This task is level-funded from FY20. The Steering Committee may consider augmenting this position with an additional 0.2 FTE support for coordination of the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network (see Task 19, below).

**Description:** This position will serve to coordinate the meetings and related activities of the New York and Vermont Citizen's Advisory Committees, and increase coordination of these committees with the Quebec CAC. The CACs were initially created by the 1988 MOU between VT, NY, and QC. They are independent committees comprised of citizens representing recreation, tourism, farmers, business, cultural heritage, and advocacy groups and may include some legislative representation. The CACs advise the Steering Committee and the public on lake issues and priorities of importance to the public. The VT CAC also provides an annual report to the VT legislature. The New York CAC has fourteen members appointed by the Commissioner of NYSDEC; the Vermont CAC has fourteen members appointed by the Governor and the Legislature; and the Quebec CAC has eight members appointed by the Minister of Environment that serve as the Board of Directors of the *Organisme Bassin Versant Baie Missisquoi* (OBVBM).

**Duties of the CAC Coordinator include:**

- Coordination of the New York and Vermont Citizen Advisory Committees, under supervision of the E&O Coordinator.
- Work with the Committees to establish meeting schedules, agendas, and annual goals for each committee. Recruit speakers, secure meeting spaces, provide necessary meeting supplies, and meeting documentation.
- Work with LCBP, New York DEC, and Vermont ANR to develop and fulfill committee membership for each jurisdiction.
- Conduct outreach to communities to promote CAC meetings, activities, and annual goals or priorities.
- Work closely with New York and Vermont State staff to ensure coordinated messaging and communication between the States, LCBP, and the CAC membership. Arrange legislative days for CAC committee members to engage in discourse with State legislators and other officials. CAC Coordinator will not engage in advocacy or lobbying efforts.
- Attend the Quebec CAC (OBVBM) meetings on a regular basis.
- Coordinate one joint meeting among the three CACs annually to foster collaborative work, communication, and messaging across the jurisdictions of the Lake Champlain basin.
- Attend LCBP Committee meetings as appropriate.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$120,000; (1.0 FTE + Fringe, Indirect, Travel, Professional development)**

**6. Coordination of Technical Tasks**

***EPA, GLFC, IJC (\$285,000) to NEIWPC***

**Status:** This task supports 2.3 FTE: The Technical Coordinator (1.0 FTE), Technical Associate (1.0 FTE), and Technical Associate (0.3 FTE) support positions. Funding from the International Joint Commission supports 50% of the 1.0 FTE Technical Associate position.

**Description:** The Technical Coordinator and Associate are responsible for most technical programs supported by the LCBP, working under supervision of the LCBP Program Director and in coordination with the ANS Coordinator and other LCBP staff. The Technical Associate is

supported by the International Joint Commission at 50% time through March 2022 for US project coordination of the LCCR flood mitigation study. Activities in this task are carried out by the Technical Coordinator and Technical Associates. The Technical Coordinator provides staff support for the Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee, facilitates the work of the TAC and subcommittees, assists the LCBP Program Director with policy and program development, and serves as the liaison between the LCBP and other technical staff working on Lake Champlain basin issues at the local, state, and federal levels. The Technical Coordinator is supervised by the LCBP Director. The Technical Coordinator oversees the administration of technical grant programs supporting local projects and facilitates technical assistance to those projects and to other entities undertaking technical projects. The Technical Coordinator is project officer for larger technical tasks and is a NEIWPC Quality Assurance Program Manager designee.

**Duties of the Coordinator and technical staff include:**

- Work with technical staff at all levels to synthesize and evaluate technical data.
- Coordinate Technical Advisory Committee meetings and Technical Workshops.
- Track review by technical and professional staff of completed technical contracts and technical publications, and arrange for LCBP publication of results, where appropriate.
- Guide special projects such as Ecosystem Indicators, LCBP Task Forces, Monitoring Programs, Climate Change and Flood Resilience, and other initiatives that may develop.
- Assist local groups and agencies to design local implementation projects and proposals.
- Develop requests for proposals for grant programs.
- Provide guidance to contractors preparing technical workplans and coordinate plan reviews.
- Provide or supervise assistance in development and implementation of all QAPPS for LCBP tasks.
- Coordinate the review and evaluation of technical grant proposals.
- Track local grants, provide technical assistance and assess products.
- Support all LCBP committees on technical issues as needed.
- US Project Coordination of the IJC Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Flood Mitigation Study

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$285,000; (2.3 FTE + Fringe, Indirect, Travel, Professional development)**

**7. Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Coordination**

***EPA, GLFC (\$230,000) to NEIWPC***

**Status:** This task supports 1.7 FTE: The Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Coordinator (1.0 FTE), Technical Associate (0.4 FTE), and a temporary staff (0.3 FTE) support position. This task is level-funded from FFY20.

**Description:** This task supports LCBP coordination of the *Lake Champlain Basin Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan* implementation and several related bi-state tasks. The ANS Management Coordinator facilitates the LCBP TAC Aquatic Nuisance Species Rapid Response subcommittee, which guides implementation of the management plan, to advise the TAC on budget priorities and emerging ANS issues, facilitates developing a rapid response protocol for the Basin, and strengthens ANS spread prevention efforts. The Coordinator also organizes and

participates in field programs to implement Rapid Response actions to manage or control aquatic invasive species. The Coordinator also implements other tasks, funded by the USFWS grant to VTDEC, in both states and facilitates the implementation of numerous ANS management projects supported by the LCBP. This position also represents the LCBP on the national Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The ANS Management Coordinator is supervised by the LCBP Director. The ANS Coordinator also provides support for the LCBP Director when needed. This task also supports 40% of an FTE (~ 16 hours weekly) support staff position to assist with coordination of the Lake Champlain Boat Launch Steward Program as well as other ANS-related tasks throughout the fiscal year, and a temporary staff position equivalent to an 0.3 FTE position to manage the Boat Launch Steward data and assist the ANS Management Coordinator with related tasks.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$190,000; (1.3 FTE + Fringe, Indirect, Travel, Professional development)**

### **8. Administrative Assistance**

***EPA, GLFC, NPS (\$120,000) to NEIWPCC***

**Status:** This task supports 1.0 FTE; the LCBP Administrative Assistant. This task is level-funded from FFY20.

**Description:** This ongoing task provides administrative assistance as part of the LCBP staff, dealing with administrative matters and with management of the program office in Grand Isle, VT. This task supports an Administrative Assistant responsible for day-to-day office coordination and management. Duties of the Administrative Assistance staff include:

- Assist the LCBP Director in administering the Lake Champlain Basin Program, including NEIWPCC cooperative agreements and contracts.
- Manage the LCBP office operations in Grand Isle.
- Prepare NEIWPCC invoices and timesheets and contract materials for approval by the LCBP Director, track office expenses, and assist in tracking project budgets.
- Assemble and review with the LCBP Director the NEIWPCC quarterly project status reports and monthly disbursement records to ensure accuracy in the assessment of project status.
- Review quarterly financial reports for accuracy and work with the LCBP Director and financial staff at NEIWPCC to make corrections and adjustments.
- Maintain a database of committees, constituent groups, interested citizens, and facilitate other needed information management tasks.
- Maintain a central calendar of meetings and activities.
- Coordinate monthly mailings to committees and newsletter distribution as needed.
- Coordinate logistics of the Steering and Executive meetings, ensuring that adequate notes are taken and preparing draft minutes for LCBP Director to review. Maintain a full set of hard copy and electronic records of Steering and Executive Committee meetings in the office files.
- Serve as a receptionist for office visitors & incoming phone calls during business hours.
- Respond to public requests for information.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$120,000; (1 FTE + Fringe, Indirect, Travel, Professional development)**

## **9. Lake Champlain Basin Program Direction**

***EPA, GLFC, NPS (\$170,000) to NEIWPCC***

**Status:** This task supports 1.0 FTE; the LCBP and CVNHP Program Director. This task is level-funded from FFY20.

**Description:** The LCBP Director oversees the administrative functions of the program to maintain the effective operation of the LCBP, and to carry out management functions at the Basin Program Office in Grand Isle. Management duties include overall coordination and administration of an international and bi-state management program for the natural, recreational and historic resources of Lake Champlain. Extensive interaction occurs with scientific and technical experts, private citizens and with representatives of state and federal governments, businesses, universities, environmental and economic development organizations, and others. The Director is a NEIWPCC employee and reports to the Steering Committee and its Executive Committee on programmatic matters and to the Executive Director of NEIWPCC on administrative matters. The Director provides effective coordination with the Lowell office of NEIWPCC on administrative matters. Duties include the following tasks:

- Provide leadership of a team which includes the other LCBP staff, the New York/Vermont/Quebec Coordinators, and NEIWPCC staff based in Lowell track and approve disbursements;
- Review contracts and ensure compliance;
- Provide ongoing information to staff and committees about fiscal status;
- Serve as a liaison between federal agencies, International Commissions, NEIWPCC, the states and the LCBP.
- Serve as LCBP Staff Team Leader. (LCBP staff support includes EPA Project Officers, Vermont and New York Coordinators, Province of Quebec staff, and Technical, Education, Communications, and Cultural Heritage & Recreation Coordinator). Schedules and leads staff meetings monthly or as needed.
- Coordinates program planning involving staff, advisory committees, and Steering and Executive Committee,
- Coordinates Advisory Committee work on annual budget development and prepares draft budgets for Steering/Executive Committee review.
- Coordinates the Promotional Activities of the LCBP
- Designs and implements a planning process to actively involve the public in developing policies and strategies.
- Facilitates public meetings to maximize public participation and to determine public priorities.
- Works under the direction of the Steering Committee and the Executive Committee to develop policies for the management of the Lake's natural, historic and recreational resources.
- Works under the direction of the Steering Committee and the Executive Committee to support and coordinate *ad hoc* committees and workgroups concerning the implementation of *Opportunities for Action*.



- Works under the direction of the Steering Committee and the Executive Committee to develop and administer the LCBP budget.
- Coordinates federal and state legislative tracking and provides an information resource about resource management to federal and state officials and legislators.
- Oversees production of the *State of the Lake* report as required.
- Prepares press releases and serves as spokesperson to the media in coordination with LCBP partners and staff.
- Oversees newsletter production and promotion of special lake events.
- In cooperation with NEIWPCCC's Lowell office, is responsible for overall direction of the LCBP office including:
  - supervision of LCBP staff,
  - coordination of an annual workplan preparations for federal funds,
  - administration of NEIWPCCC cooperative agreements, contracts and amendments of LCBP projects,
  - oversight of quarterly reporting requirements,
  - oversight of financial aspects of projects.
  - oversight and final LCBP approval of Quality Assurance Project Plans
- Provides lead staff support to the Steering Committee and its Executive Committee, along with other LCBP staff.
- Secures funding for implementation activities from federal, state, local and private sources.
- Provides annual reports on the fiscal status of the LCBP to the Steering Committee and Executive Committee.
- Serves as *Director of the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership* with primary responsibility for communication with federal partners and oversight of implementation activities.
- Participates in organizing intergovernmental meetings and conferences.
- Coordinates with Quebec on program and policy matters affecting the Lake.
- Other duties as assigned.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$170,000; (1.0 FTE + Fringe, Indirect, Travel, Professional development)**

### **10. LCBP Office Operations**

***EPA, GLFC, NPS (\$50,000) to NEIWPCCC***

**Status:** This task is reduced 30% (\$22,000) from FY20, due to COVID-related reductions in meeting costs.

**Description:** This task includes normal operating expenses such as heat, electricity, insurance, telephone services, computer maintenance, lease or purchase agreements for copying, printing, postage, supplies, meetings, and publications. This task also includes the costs of Steering and Executive Committee meetings and professional consultation services related to office operations.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$50,000**

### **11. Resource Room Staffing**

#### ***EPA (\$195,000) to NEIWPC***

**Status:** This task supports 1.6 FTE: 1.0 FTE, and 2-4 temporary staff at a total of 0.5 FTE equivalent hours. This task is level-funded from FY20.

**Description:** This task supports full time and temporary LCBP staff to assist the public for 7 days per week at the Resource Room within ECHO at the Leahy Center, augmented by volunteers when available. The Resource Room staff also deliver other Education and Outreach projects as time permits. LCBP operates and staffs the Resource Room during ECHO's normal business hours (typically 362 days a year plus occasional evenings for special events). Visitors tend to view maps, ask questions about the Lake, use the computers for Lake research, peruse library books, videos and exhibits, and use the activity kits created by LCBP staff. Resource Room staff also respond to general inquiries about the Lake submitted to LCBP through various electronic portals. Historically, up to 25% of all ECHO guests visit the Resource Room.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$195,000; (1 FTE +3 PTE+ Fringe, Indirect, Travel, Professional development)**

### **12. NEIWPC Administration**

#### ***EPA, GLFC, NPS (\$198,000 – pending confirmation) to NEIWPC***

**Status:** This task supports 0.75 FTE NEIWPC Lowell-based staff, including the NEIWPC Water Resource Protection Division Director and administrative staff. This task is level-funded from FY20.

**Description:** This task supports the direct NEIWPC costs for the NEIWPC Division Director and administrative staff in the NEIWPC Lowell, MA office responsible for grant applications, tracking disbursements, reviewing and issuing task contracts and ensuring compliance, Quality Assurance, and providing general oversight of LCBP operations.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$198,000; (0.75 FTE + Fringe, Indirect, Travel, Professional development)**

### **13. CVNHP Administration**

#### ***NPS, GLFC (\$185,000) to NEIWPC***

**Status:** This task supports 1.0 FTE: Assistant Director of the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership. This task is level-funded from FFY20.

**Description:** This task supports the Cultural Heritage and Recreational Resources Coordination staff tasked with implementing partnership programs of the *Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP)*. This position serves as the Assistant Director of the CVNHP and works in close collaboration and is supervised by the LCBP Director (who also is CVNHP Director) in the implementation of the CVNHP Management Plan. Tasks include:

- Work as a team member with LCBP staff in the course of implementing priorities of *Opportunities for Action* that highlight the importance of Lake water quality in the context

of recreation and cultural heritage interests.

- Develop and maintains program partnerships to implement the CVNHP Management Plan, working in collaboration with the CVNHP Director.
- Serve as coordinator and project officer for LCBP program grants, prepare RFP language, coordinate the review of proposals and the development of workplans, track ongoing contract work and facilitate the final review of projects.
- Work with education and outreach staff on issues that pertain to cultural heritage and recreational enjoyment of the Lake and that leverage a broader public commitment to improved water quality in Lake Champlain.
- Provide lead staff support of on-going cultural heritage, recreation, and sustainable tourism programs such as the Lake Champlain Byway and the coordination of 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations among VT, NY & QC entities.
- Coordinate the *Wayside Exhibit Design* Program.
- Assist the LCBP Director in the financial tracking of recreational and cultural heritage projects.
- Provide staff support for the *Heritage Area Partnership Advisory Committee (HAPAC)*.
- Conduct research, analyze results and prepare reports and fact sheets in the course of implementing the related priority recommendations of *Opportunities for Action*.
- Write, edit and prepare contract completion reports and materials for publication and distribution as needed.
- Attend public meetings concerning Basin Program interests in cultural heritage and recreational programs.
- Develop recreational and heritage resources for inclusion on the LCBP web site and *E-news* the LCBP newsletter.

Other duties as assigned.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$185,000; (1.25 FTE + Fringe, Indirect, Travel, Professional development)**

#### **14. Gordon Center House Rent EPA to VT**

**Status:** NEIWPC, on behalf of the LCBP, leases office space in Grand Isle from the VT Fish & Wildlife Department. The current lease was initiated in March 2017 and expires in March 2022. Renewal of the lease will be negotiated by September 2021. This task is level-funded from FFY20.

**Description:** This task covers the cost of the annual rental agreement between NEIWPC/LCBP and VT FWD for rental of office space for LCBP operations in the Gordon House in Grand Isle, VT. The agreement includes space for meetings for other organizations when available.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$18,500**

#### **15. Local Implementation Grants – several targeted local grant programs: EPA, GLFC (\$550,000) to NEIWPC**

**Status:** This task is level-funded from FFY20.

**Description:** Implementation grants fund critical projects, including boots-on-the-ground and planning grants, to eligible applicants, including municipalities, not-for-profit organizations such

as watershed organizations, schools, conservation districts and others specified in the Requests for Proposals, to implement in the basin.

This task will support implementation grants targeted in the following areas prioritized by the Steering Committee (amounts within each category are approximate to accommodate demand among the three categories):

- **Local Grants 1: Pollution Prevention & Habitat Conservation** Projects approx. \$290,000
- **Local Grants 2: Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention** Projects approx. \$200,000
- **Local Grants 3: Organizational Support** Projects approx. \$40,000

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$550,000;**

**\*\*\*NEW PROPOSED TASKS IN FFY2021\*\*\***

### **16. 2022 Lake Champlain Research Symposium GLFC (\$15,000) to NEIWPC**

**Description:** The LCBP supports a Lake Champlain-focused research symposium every 3-4 years, in partnership with the Lake Champlain Research Consortium and Lake Champlain Sea Grant. The last symposium was held in January 2018. Over 200 people participated in the 2-day symposium in 2018. With support from LCBP, LCRC, LCSG and other partners, we were able to keep registration costs very low to allow for increased participation from graduate and undergraduate students, staff and volunteers from watershed groups across the Basin, and interested members of the public. Staff from federal, state, and local governments also participated. We anticipate the general topics in the 2022 agenda will generally reflect the typical breadth of Lake Champlain issues (monitoring, water quality, nutrient reduction, contaminants, fish and wildlife, AIS, heritage and recreation, and education/outreach programming). Keynote speakers may address a number of topical areas, but we expect to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Clean Water Act (1972) and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lake Champlain Basin Program grant programs during this symposium.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$15,000** (additional support anticipated from Conference partners)

### **17. Commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clean Water Act EPA, GLFC (\$50,000) to NEIWPC**

**Description:** The United States will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clean Water Act in 2022. The LCBP also marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its grants program in 2022. EPA and GLFC funds will be utilized to mark the event with a set of traveling interpretive exhibits, a retrospective 1972 State of the Lake Report, special programs, and a signature event that features partners in water quality improvement.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$50,000**

**18. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion in the LCBP**  
**EPA, GLFC (\$10,000) to NEIWPC**

**Description:** This task will allow the LCBP to continue to invest in ensuring that staff are adequately trained in diversity and inclusion elements and LCBP products and programs are accessible to diverse and underserved communities. These funds will support consultant time for training for staff, translation of selected LCBP outreach products, and other related work.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$10,000**

**19. Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network Coordination and Outreach**  
**EPA, GLFC, NPS (\$50,000) to NEIWPC**

**Description:** The newly reconstituted Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network (CABN) has made progress in addressing the goals of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program and incorporating the efforts of the LCBP with its work. This task will support an 0.2 FTE position (likely connected to the 0.8 FTE CAC Coordinator position described in Task 5 above) for CABN coordination and communication with the LCBP Steering Committee and its advisory committees. Funds will also be used for outreach and educational materials that highlight the shared work of CABN and the LCBP, and support a joint conference to be held in 2022.

**Estimated Direct and Indirect Cost: \$50,000**

## LCBP FFY21 Line Item Requests

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Requesting Organization(s)</b>	<b>Short Project Title</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>
1	NY/VT DEC	Forest P Load Allocation	\$300,000
2	NY/VT DEC	Stormwater planning & Inland Lake action plans	\$400,000
3	NY/VT DEC	Interstate Clean Water Accounting	\$100,000
4	NY/VT DEC	MRGP and RRAMP Implementation	\$200,000
5	NY/VT DEC	Enhanced Agricultural BMPs	\$400,000
6	LCBP/LC Sea Grant	Lake Champlain ANSIS database	\$60,000

## Lake Champlain Basin Program FY21 Conceptual Technical Task Description

**TITLE:** Forest Phosphorus Load Allocation Developing Assessment and Planning Tools for Implementation of the Lake Champlain TMDLs (Forest Load Allocation)

**ONE SENTENCE ABSTRACT:** This project would assist Vermont and New York continuing its work in developing and piloting the framework for addressing the forestland load allocation of the Lake Champlain TMDLs through an assessment of managed forestland, the identification, design and construction of forestland BMPs, and development of accounting methods for forestland improvement practices in targeted basins of Lake Champlain.

**POINTS OF CONTACT:**

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New York State Department of Environmental  
Conservation (NYSDEC)  
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**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT SCOPE, OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES, METHODS, AND TIMEFRAME:**

Forested lands compose 73% of land use in the Lake Champlain Basin and contribute 20% of total phosphorus loading to Lake Champlain. The Phosphorus TMDLs for Vermont Segments of Lake Champlain require a ~19% reduction in total phosphorus from forested land uses. The Missisquoi Bay lake segment is 62% forested land use and contributes the greatest mean annual phosphorus load from the Vermont portion of the Lake Champlain Basin (170 metric tons per year). Because the TMDL calls for the greatest phosphorus load reductions from forestland in the South Lake and Missisquoi sub-basins, these forestlands are prioritized for targeted BMP implementation in Vermont. The efforts complement water quality protections conferred by the recently revised (2017) Acceptable Management Practices for Logging Jobs in Vermont (VT AMPs), to prevent sediment, petroleum products, and woody debris (logging slash) from entering Vermont's waters.

Phosphorus reductions from forested land uses will primarily involve bringing forest trails, roads, and stream crossings into compliance with VT AMPs, remediating erosion and altered hydrology associated with forest trails and roads due to legacy timber management operations. Due to the remote nature of these sites, optimal locations for phosphorus-reducing best management practices (BMPs) or targeted acceptable management practice inspection are not easily identifiable without mapping and ground truthing.

New York and Vermont are seeking support for assessing forestlands to identify, prioritize, and implement water quality improvement projects to reduce phosphorus loading from forested land uses. This project could support the following phases and associated tasks:

*Phase 1* Identifying forestland in Vermont and New York, including managed<sup>1</sup> forestland parcels such as national forests, state forests, state parks, municipal parks, and Use-Value Appraisal lands (lands enrolled in current-use programs) and the current and historic activities within them that could contribute to loading (e.g., recreational trails, forest roads, timber harvesting, sugaring).

1. Determining erosion risk hotspots on managed forestlands, particularly legacy erosion associated with historic management practices such as hydrologically connected forest roads, streambank erosion, and BMPs to address them.

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<sup>1</sup> There is natural loading from non-managed forested lands outside of these areas, but no reasonable approach for dealing with diffuse, low level loading. For example, there is no BMP to apply in the case of a homeowner with 1.5 undisturbed acres of forest within a parcel boundary.

2. Develop a method to account for phosphorus reductions associated with the implementation of forestland AMP's and the remediation of legacy erosion.
3. Estimating interim phosphorus reduction targets by sub-basin (HUC—12 scale?), achieved through regulatory and non-regulatory means.
4. Develop accounting methodology to track and report on AMP compliance, and to identify and target high priority legacy erosion sites for restoration
5. Compile all the forestland parcels information, priority areas and recommended forestland BMPs in a final report that can be used to guide implementation.

*Phase 2*

1. Groundtruth landscape analysis to calibrate prioritization framework of critical source areas.
2. Develop prioritization framework to address legacy erosion in high priority basins (South Lake Champlain and Missisquoi Bay in Vermont) to achieve target load allocations for lake segments that won't meet through VT AMP compliance alone.
3. Groundtruth existing BMP implementation for recreation trails and other forestland uses calibrate BMP design life and O&M requirements,
4. Deploy these tools to enhance implementation of forestland BMPs projects using complementary funding initiatives as well as piloting a suite of forestland BMPs for design and implementation to reduce sediment erosion.

Project **outputs** for Phase 1 could include prioritized maps of disturbed areas and other areas at risk for erosion in managed forestlands; accounting methods for forestland BMP efficiencies; and interim targets for forested land uses by sub-basin, to be achieved through regulatory and non-regulatory means. Project outputs for Phase 2 include the design and implementation of forestland best management practices. The **outcomes** of this project are an increase in our understanding of phosphorus and sediment sources from forestland uses and how to address them, which will help to inform future state and federal investments to support TMDL implementation, resulting in reduced nutrient loading from forested land uses and improved surface water quality in the Lake Champlain Basin. Overall, this project will provide a framework for implementing the forestland load allocation of the Lake Champlain TMDLs.

This project contributes toward Lake Champlain Basin Program's Opportunities for Action (OFA) through the following objectives, strategies and task areas:

Objective I.C: Reduce Nutrient Loading: Strategy I.C.4: Fund Programs to Reduce Nutrient Inputs from Forested Lands, Task Area I.C.4.a: Fund programs to promote forestry practices with water quality benefits.

Objective III.B: Support Water-Wise Economic Development: Strategy III.B.3: Support working landscapes that help protect water quality, Task Area III.B.3.a BMP Implementation

**Timeframe:** November 1, 2021 – October 31, 2023

**REQUEST AMOUNT:** \$300,000 (\$200,000 – VT, \$100,000 – NY)

**TOTAL COST WITH NEIWPCC INDIRECT:** \$300,000

**BRIEF BUDGET EXPLANATION:** Vermont has established an interdepartmental technical team and New York is assembling an interdisciplinary team within NYSDEC that will oversee preliminary assessment work related to this scope with state resources in SFY21, but additional resources will be required for further assessment, piloting methodology, and implementation. For FFY21 New York will mainly be continuing Phase 1 tasks while Vermont expects to be mostly done with Phase 1 and ready to focus on Phase 2 tasks.



**TECHNICAL REFERENCES CITED:**

Crosswalk between the Vermont Phase 1 Plan and EPA's BMP scenario identifying achievable phosphorus reductions

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/appendix-b-crosswalk.pdf>

Concentration, load, and trend estimates for nutrients, chloride, and total suspended solids in Lake Champlain tributaries, 1990 – 2017

[http://lcbp.org/techreportPDF/86\\_LC\\_Tributary>Loading\\_Report.pdf](http://lcbp.org/techreportPDF/86_LC_Tributary>Loading_Report.pdf)

**Lake Champlain Basin Program  
FY21 Conceptual Technical Task Description**

**TITLE:** Stormwater Master Planning and Inland Lake Watershed Action Plans

**ONE SENTENCE ABSTRACT:** This project proposes to further develop stormwater planning in non-regulated communities and Inland Lake Watershed Action Plans in New York and Vermont respectively.

**POINTS OF CONTACT:**

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**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT SCOPE, OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES, METHODS, AND TIMEFRAME:**

This project proposes to further develop stormwater planning in non-regulated communities and Inland Lake Watershed Action Plans in New York and Vermont respectively. Stormwater planning and lake watershed plans are critical steps in determining cost-effective approaches to mitigate negative impacts of stormwater, target pollution prevention, as well as identify opportunities for natural resource and habitat restoration projects. NYSDEC proposes to develop stormwater master plans for 1-2 non-regulated communities that have been identified in New York's draft Watershed Implementation Plan as needing assistance with stormwater infrastructure. Guidelines for stormwater master planning have been developed by VTDEC; similar guidelines will be followed for plans developed in New York. Communities that receive stormwater master plans will become eligible for further planning, design, and implementation funding through NYSDEC's water quality grant programs.

A Lake Watershed Action Plan (LWAP) is a comprehensive assessment of a lake watershed to identify areas of the watershed with the highest levels of nutrient/sediment pollution, stormwater runoff, and habitat degradation for targeting pollution prevention and natural resources restoration projects. Work includes project development and prioritization to target cost effective actions, via the identification of sources of water quality and habitat impacts, prioritizing these threats based on various environmental, economic, and social criteria, and designing projects to mitigate these threats. The LWAP results in a prioritized list of projects and strategies to address/mitigate stormwater runoff, nutrient pollution, and habitat degradation. The plan may also contain recommendations to preserve natural features and functions, encourage use of low impact green stormwater infrastructure, and maintain the aesthetic and recreational uses of lakes. The lake watershed areas that are assessed include, but are not limited to, tributary streams, roads, developed lands, lake shoreland, aquatic invasive species, and littoral habitat. To date, two LWAPs have been developed in Vermont (Lake Eden and Lake Elmore), and a number of other lake associations, including those representing lakes in the Lake Champlain Basin such as Lake St. Catherine and Lake Dunmore, have expressed interest in developing LWAPs. VTDEC Watershed Management Division views these plans as a useful tool to identify nutrient reduction projects in a watershed, support local organizations to implement these projects, and identify funding sources. LWAPs can also provide critical information to support local Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) management plans. VTDEC has also modeled phosphorus reduction from lake-watershed management efforts in the Lake Champlain Basin, such as at Lake Carmi, and could provide estimated phosphorus reduction calculations for projects identified in these plans if

necessary. Any remaining funding in this project would go towards implementing identified projects. Additional implementation work may be proposed in future years as well to pursue the projects identified and prioritized in the planning activities described here.

Project **outputs** include development of Stormwater Master Plans (New York) and Inland Lake Watershed Action Plans (Vermont). Anticipated **outcomes** include reduced sediment and nutrient loading, and natural resource restoration after projects identified and prioritized in the plans are implemented.

**Timeframe**

October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2023

This project contributes toward Lake Champlain Basin Program's *Opportunities for Action (OFA)* through the following objectives, strategies and task areas:

Objective I.B. Reduce Contaminants of Concern and Pathogens

Objective I.C: Reduce Nutrient Loading

Strategy I.C.3: Fund Programs to Reduce Nutrient Inputs from Developed Lands i. Task Area I.C.3.b: Fund research and implementation programs to reduce effective impervious surface area. Address nutrient runoff from impervious surface areas in critical watersheds, incorporating predicted effects of climate change on precipitation events.

Objective II.A. Support Conservation of Vulnerable Habitat

Strategy II.A.1: Protect Important Riparian, Shoreland and Wetland Habitat Areas

**REQUEST AMOUNT:** \$400,000

**TOTAL COST WITH NEIWPCC INDIRECT:** \$400,000

**BRIEF BUDGET EXPLANATION:** Funds will be utilized for the development of Stormwater Master Plans (NY) and Inland Lake Watershed Action Plans (VT). Any remaining funding will be directed to implementation of priorities identified in the plans.

## **Lake Champlain Basin Program FY21 Conceptual Technical Task Description**

**TITLE:** Development and Review of Interstate Clean Water Project Tracking and Accounting Methodologies

**ONE SENTENCE ABSTRACT:** This project would support coordination and the development of a basin-wide approach for Clean Water Project Tracking and Accounting Methodologies that establish consistent pollution reduction values, phosphorus reduction estimates, as well as the Standard Operating Procedures.

**POINTS OF CONTACT:**

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Lauren Townley, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
(518) 402-8283  
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**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT SCOPE, OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES, METHODS, AND TIMEFRAME:**

This project would support coordination and the development of a basin-wide approach for Clean Water Project Tracking and Accounting Methodologies that establish consistent pollution reduction values, phosphorus reduction estimates, as well as the Standard Operating Procedures for doing so. This project proposes to have an external review of Vermont and New York's Standard Operating Procedures that are under development. This assessment and review will identify where BMP tracking and accounting procedures could be better aligned between the two states so that Phosphorus reduction estimates and progress reporting for Lake Champlain is consistent and comparable across the entire basin.

Under the Clean Water Service Delivery Act (Act 76 of 2019), Vermont is required to publish methods to estimate phosphorus reductions for all clean water project types in the Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog basins by November 1, 2021. To meet Act 76 requirements and centralize all of Vermont's TMDL tracking and accounting methods, VTDEC's Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) has been developing TMDL Tracking and Accounting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for each land use sector (developed lands, agriculture, wastewater, and natural resources). After the initial publication of Tracking and Accounting SOPs in late 2021, the state is required to periodically review accounting methods at least every five years to determine the adequacy or accuracy of pollutant reduction values and design lives. NYSDEC is concurrently developing a statewide BMP tracking database with SOPs that will account for project implementation in the Lake Champlain basin. While the database is being finalized, New York's SOP will be complete.

This project proposes to have an external review of the published Tracking and Accounting SOPs assessing the adequacy of pollutant reduction values, similar to the peer review process for scientific journals after Vermont's first publication of its SOPs. A comparison between NYSDEC and VTDEC's Tracking and Accounting SOPs will be needed to ensure basin-wide consistency. The states could use this external review to inform future revisions to SOPs and improve the state's overall TMDL tracking and accounting methods. This project would be able to build off of existing efforts and collaborative initiatives including LCBP projects that address accounting of soil and sediment phosphorus reductions, agricultural BMPs, as well as broader collaborative efforts such as the work of

the NEIWPCC Tracking and Accounting Collaborative to establish consistent methodologies within the region.

The **outputs** of the external review will identify where BMP tracking and accounting procedures could be better aligned between the two states so that Phosphorus reduction estimates and progress reporting for the Lake Champlain TMDL is consistent and comparable across the entire basin to support **outcomes** of regional coordination for consistent tracking and accounting methodologies to support informed decision-making and progress in meeting clean water targets for Lake Champlain Basin.

**Timeframe**

October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2023

This project contributes toward Lake Champlain Basin Program’s *Opportunities for Action (OFA)* through the following objectives, strategies and task areas:

Objective I.A. Improve scientific knowledge and understanding of water quality conditions and trends in Lake Champlain and the effectiveness of management approaches  
Strategy I.A.1: Fund and Interpret Management-oriented Research Task Areas I.A.1.c:  
Increase understanding of factors affecting BMP performance and efficiency. I.A.2.c: Assess progress of existing water quality management programs.

**REQUEST AMOUNT:** \$100,000

**TOTAL COST WITH NEIWPCC INDIRECT:** \$100,000

**BRIEF BUDGET EXPLANATION:** Funds will be utilized to implementation and external review of VTDEC and NYSDEC Tracking and Accounting SOPs, and pollution reduction estimates.

## **Lake Champlain Basin Program FY21 Conceptual Technical Task Description**

**TITLE:** Implementation of VT Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) Standards and NY Rural Roads Active Management Program (RRAMP) on Non-Regulatory Road Networks

**ONE SENTENCE ABSTRACT:** As a continuation of previous work completed to inventory and prioritize projects locations on non-regulatory road networks in both NY and VT, this initiative will support implementation of identified projects in high priority subwatersheds and any additional inventory work not covered under the pilot phase of this project.

**POINTS OF CONTACT:**

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**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT SCOPE, OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES, METHODS, AND TIMEFRAME:**

In FFY20, the Lake Champlain Basin Program funded the adoption of the MRGP inventory methodology for non-regulatory road networks (e.g., rural and municipal roads in New York and state forest, state park, and private roads in Vermont) to identify and prioritize best management practices (BMPs) to reduce phosphorus loads to Lake Champlain. The initiative proposes FFY21 funds to continue to support any additional inventory phases from the FFY20 project as well as be directed to implement the resulting prioritized projects. Inventory and implementation work will be targeted geographically to priority subwatersheds.

Vermont DEC's Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) program is a streamlined process for inventorying roads and prioritizing and constructing projects to improve water quality. This relatively simple framework was adopted in FFY20 with funding from the Lake Champlain Basin Program to incentivize road best management practices (BMPs) outside of the MRGP in Vermont. Vermont is adopting this framework on roads not covered by the MRGP, which represent 30% of Vermont road miles, including state forest roads and private roads. VTDEC data demonstrates unpaved road runoff is one of the largest phosphorus sources per acre, and road-related projects are among the most cost-effective actions to address loading from developed lands. In addition, road best management practices improve road resilience to large storm events. New York state is adopting a similar framework in partnership with Soil and Water Conservation Districts and municipalities, building upon the existing Rural Road Active Management Program (RRAMP).

Project outputs include construction of road best management practices to improve water quality and inventories of additional sub-watersheds.

Anticipated outcomes include reduced sediment and nutrient loading from road networks and access areas not covered by the Vermont MRGP and all the unregulated roadways in New York within the Lake Champlain Basin.

**Timeframe**

October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2023

This project contributes toward Lake Champlain Basin Program's *Opportunities for Action (OFA)* through the following objectives, strategies and task areas:

Objective I.C: Reduce Nutrient Loading

Strategy I.C.3: Fund Programs to Reduce Nutrient Inputs from Developed Lands

Objective III.B: Support Water-Wise Economic Development

Strategy III.B.3: Support working landscapes that help protect water quality

Task Area III.B.3.a: BMP Implementation. Provide Financial and Technical Assistance to Support Practices that Help Protect Water Quality.

**REQUEST AMOUNT:** \$200,000

**TOTAL COST WITH NEIWPC INDIRECT:** \$200,000

**BRIEF BUDGET EXPLANATION:** Funds will be directed to implementation and additional inventories. The cost effectiveness of roads BMPs on hydrologically connected road miles to fully comply<sup>1</sup> with the MRGP:

- Cost of road inventories per mile: \$287<sup>2</sup>
- Cost of improvements per linear mile: \$68,490<sup>3</sup>
- Cost per TP load reduction unit (kg/yr): \$11,838<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Includes both change from not meeting to fully meeting standards and partially meeting to fully meeting standards.

<sup>2</sup> Based on VTrans-funded inventories and performance measures reported voluntarily by Regional Planning Commissions.

<sup>3</sup> Based on SFY 2018 Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid results

<sup>4</sup> Based on SFY 2018 Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid results

## **Lake Champlain Basin Program FY21 Conceptual Technical Task Description**

**TITLE:** Enhanced Agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) Pilot Projects

**ONE SENTENCE ABSTRACT:** Development and implementation of several BMP pilot projects to fill gaps in existing state and federal funding opportunities.

**POINTS OF CONTACT:**

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**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT SCOPE, OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES, METHODS, AND TIMEFRAME:**

Agriculture provides one of the greatest sources of phosphorus loads in the basin. While many state and federal programs exist to assist agricultural operations, there are gaps in funding opportunities to achieve greater load reductions in the agricultural sector. The VTDEC and NYSDEC propose to support the development and implementation of several agricultural BMP pilot projects that will supplement other state and federal funding initiatives.

Addressing gaps in existing funding opportunities in Vermont could include BMPs such as enhanced agricultural land buffers. The phosphorus reduction benefits of riparian wooded buffers along agricultural fields are well known; not only do wooded buffers improve filtration, infiltration and uptake of field runoff, woody vegetation decreases erosion and the loss of legacy phosphorus from streambanks. While multiple programs exist to identify sites and plant trees (Trees for Streams, CREP, NRCS riparian buffer practice), there is very limited support available for the long-term comprehensive management of these buffers<sup>1</sup>. The ongoing success of a buffer is contingent on the implementation of multiple best practices including mitigation of deer browse and management of weeds. Additionally, the success of buffers may be increased by innovative planting methods, including denser populations, hydroseeding, diversification of species and greater preparation of the planting area.

New York proposes a pilot watershed-wide cover crop program. Existing federal and state programs in NY have not been effective for the implementation of cover crops. Cover crops require specialized equipment and short contract terms only encourage implementation for a 2-3-year period. Under these contracts, farmers are usually responsible for planting the cover crops themselves. The need for a regional cover cropping program was identified in the Lake Champlain Nonpoint Source Pollution Subwatershed Assessment and Management Plan. NY has piloted watershed-wide cover crop programs in the Chesapeake Bay, Genesee River, and Finger Lakes watersheds where federal or state funding has been dedicated to purchase or retrofit equipment that is shared across multiple counties and funds Soil and Water Conservation District staff time to plant cover crops on behalf of farmers. NY proposes to replicate and pilot this program in the Lake Champlain watershed.

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<sup>1</sup> USF&W Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program concluded 10 years of monitoring and reported that on average, only 48% of plantings survived on the 18 sites monitored across VT and also found that survivorship varied greatly across sites.



Project **outputs** would include implementation of agricultural BMPs that maximize phosphorus reduction that otherwise would not be implemented due to funding gaps.

Anticipated **outcomes** from this project include phosphorus reductions from one of the largest loading sectors and providing cost share to farms that otherwise may be unable to afford to implement BMPs due to the current state of the agricultural economy.

**Timeframe**

October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2023

This project contributes toward Lake Champlain Basin Program's *Opportunities for Action (OFA)* through the following objectives, strategies and task areas:

Objective III.B: Support Water-Wise Economic Development

Strategy III.B.3: Support working landscapes that help protect water quality

Task Area III.B.3.a: BMP Implementation. Provide Financial and Technical Assistance to Support Practices that Help Protect Water Quality.

**REQUEST AMOUNT:** \$ 400,000

**TOTAL COST WITH NEIWPCC INDIRECT:** \$400,000

**BRIEF BUDGET EXPLANATION:**

It is expected the largest share of the budget will be for services/time provided by soil and water conservation staff and direct implementation project costs.

**TECHNICAL REFERENCES CITED:**

Lake Champlain Non-Point Source Pollution Subwatershed Assessment and Management Plan:  
<https://lclgrpb.org/blog/lake-champlain-non-point-source-pollution-subwatershed-assessment-and-management-plan/>

**Lake Champlain Basin Program  
FY21 Conceptual Technical Task Description**

**TITLE: Lake Champlain Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Information System Creation**

**ONE SENTENCE ABSTRACT:** Support the creation of a Lake Champlain equivalent of the Great Lakes Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Information System to enable geographic mapping and query of ANS in the Lake Champlain basin.

**POINT OF CONTACT:**

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**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT SCOPE, OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES, METHODS, AND TIMEFRAME:**

The creation of the Lake Champlain Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Information System requires a two-year graduate level student commitment to conduct literature reviews, herbarium and collections research and species first detection verification to populate and map data for the Lake Champlain watershed. Lake Champlain Basin Program and Lake Champlain Sea Grant propose to share support of the grad student and house the student at the University of Vermont.

The Lake Champlain ANS Information System will be created equivalent to Mills 1993 (the baseline research paper used as the initial quality baseline in creating Great Lakes Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Information System (GLANSIS) lists for the Great Lakes), brought to the present time -- preferably with earliest dates for each of the HUC8 level watersheds of the Lake Champlain basin. The graduate student will be required to conduct direct investigation of local museum/herbarium collections and enter findings into the Lake Champlain template model that mirrors GLANSIS. Dr. Rochelle Sturtevant has agreed to serve as a project advisor to the student/project. Dr. Kris Stepenuck will serve as the Lake Champlain Sea Grant project advisor. An initial evaluation and location of existing species specimen collections will need to be identified and investigated.

The project idea has been recommended by a collaborative effort between the Lake Champlain Basin Program and EPA Region 1, 2 and the Great Lakes office as a result of increased communications

about the geographical region's respective aquatic invasive species programs due to the passage of the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act in December 2018. The Act authorizes the Great Lakes Lake Champlain Aquatic Invasive Species Program.

In order for the student to provide the actual map data for the system, the individual would simultaneously collate the actual georeferenced species records into a database format. The U.S. Geological Society that operates the Nonindigenous Aquatic Species (NAS) national database is available to provide training and data-entry password to the database or can import data from a spreadsheet format.

If any species are identified that are not in common with the Great Lakes, impact assessments and additional information will need to be gathered to build species profiles. The profiles will be built off literature reviews. NOAA Library Research Service access will be provided to the student to conduct species profiles as necessary (for consistency, initial searches for species information for GLANSIS are conducted through this system with results in EndNote libraries to which grey literature from local agencies is added to write up syntheses) and NOAA GLERL can provide the templates (specific questions/methods for the assessments and an outline of the 'core information types' gathered consistently).

The master's student will work with LCBP and LCSG committees to review and evaluate the work product and coordinate with NOAA GLERL and USGS for technical support. The student will be asked to present project to regional stakeholders and travel to MI for professional development/GLANSIS model training.

**REQUEST AMOUNT: \$50,000 (total cost \$100K split between LCSG and LCBP)**  
Master's level student for two years

LCBP Cost break out:

\$25k for cost for master's student

\$8k

25.7 indirect

Travel

**TOTAL COST WITH NEIWPC INDIRECT: \$60,000**

**BRIEF BUDGET EXPLANATION:** Funding will support a MS-level student hosted by Lake Champlain Sea Grant at the University of Vermont for two years. Includes salary, travel, other related costs.

**TECHNICAL REFERENCES CITED:**

Great Lakes ANSIS: <https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/glansis/>