

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

Monday, January 9th, 2022

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

APPROVED MEETING SUMMARY

Committee Members Present: Mark Naud (Chair), Denise Smith (Vice-chair), Sen. Randy Brock, Eric Clifford, Karina Dailey, Rep. Kari Dolan, Wayne Elliot, Bob Fischer, Hilary Solomon

Committee Members Absent: Lori Fisher, Sen. Chris Bray, Rep. Ode

LCBP Staff in Attendance: Katie Darr, Sarah Coleman (VTANR)

Public Guests: Ricky Laurin

Meeting summary by Katie Darr, Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP)

5:00 – 5:15 pm

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

3. ACTION ITEM: Review and vote on draft December 12th meeting summary

Wayne Elliot moved to approve the meeting summary. Rep. Dolan seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

5:15 – 6:50 pm

4. 2023 Lake Champlain Action Plan Discussion

Sen. Brock asked who is responsible for action once the plan is delivered. Denise clarified that the plan advises the governor and the legislature and the people in government are responsible for taking action. Sen. Brock expressed concern that the content of the action plan would not translate into specific action. He noted that the committee could rethink how the plan is approached in the future to have some of these concerns ready to go in the form of a bill with an amount of money tied to it. Members agreed this would be a useful approach but noted it would be a heavy lift for a committee with limited capacity.

Rep. Dolan shared that she has looked to the annual action plan to help identify priorities for an upcoming biennium. She is proposed some bills in this biennium to help address some of the issues presented in the action plan. Ricky Laurin suggested connecting with Assemblyman Billy Jones in New York who authored an [aquatic invasive species bill](#) which authorized the establishment of aquatic invasive species inspection stations at certain locations in the Adirondack Park.

Sen. Brock asked about the extent the VTAAFM and ANR have been involved and given their support to any of the recommendations, noting that their being aware of what the CAC is proposing may translate to action. Members discussed potentially presenting the action plan to agency staff for their feedback on a final edit of the action plan prior to the formal presentations to the agency Secretaries and the Governor. Hilary asked who would approve and review the action plan? There are differences in priorities within the agencies. The Lakes and Ponds Program would love to see more funding for AIS, there are other people within DEC that could have

made that funding possible if they wanted to see it. There is potential to get into conflict between what the agency approves and what the committee hears from communities and constituents as priority concerns. The role of the CAC is different from an agency. The CAC brings forward recommendations based on the concerns heard from citizens. The committee's role as citizen advisors is to help communicate community concerns to agencies, who are consumers of the advice and recommendations.

Sarah offered to help facilitate presentations from agency staff to help provide more situational awareness about what the state is doing related to the CAC's priority areas of concern.

At the March meeting, the VTCAC will discuss potential changes to the action plan timeline and how the committee seeks feedback on the action plan.

The committee provided final edits to the draft action plan text.

Motion: To approve the draft action plan text with limited wordsmithing.

Motion by: Bob Fischer

Seconded by: Mark Naud

Discussion: None

Vote: All in favor

Elizabeth Lee will format the action plan; Katie will send it out for final review and approval before it is sent to print.

The committee discussed the timeline for the action plan presentations. Crossover will be after the town meeting break. The committee will aim to present during the week of February 13th. Please let Katie, Mark, and Denise know if you are interested in presenting to the legislature.

6:50 – 7:00 pm

5. Meeting Wrap-Up Discussion

The VTCAC is scheduled to meet next on **March 13th from 5-7pm.**