



Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee on Lake Champlain's Future

November 13, 2023

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the Vermont and New England lands that we occupy are N'dakinna (meaning the original homeland) of Indigenous People who continue to have deep ancestral roots and connections to the land. Vermont was founded and built upon lands first inhabited by the Abenaki and we acknowledge and honor these members of the community.

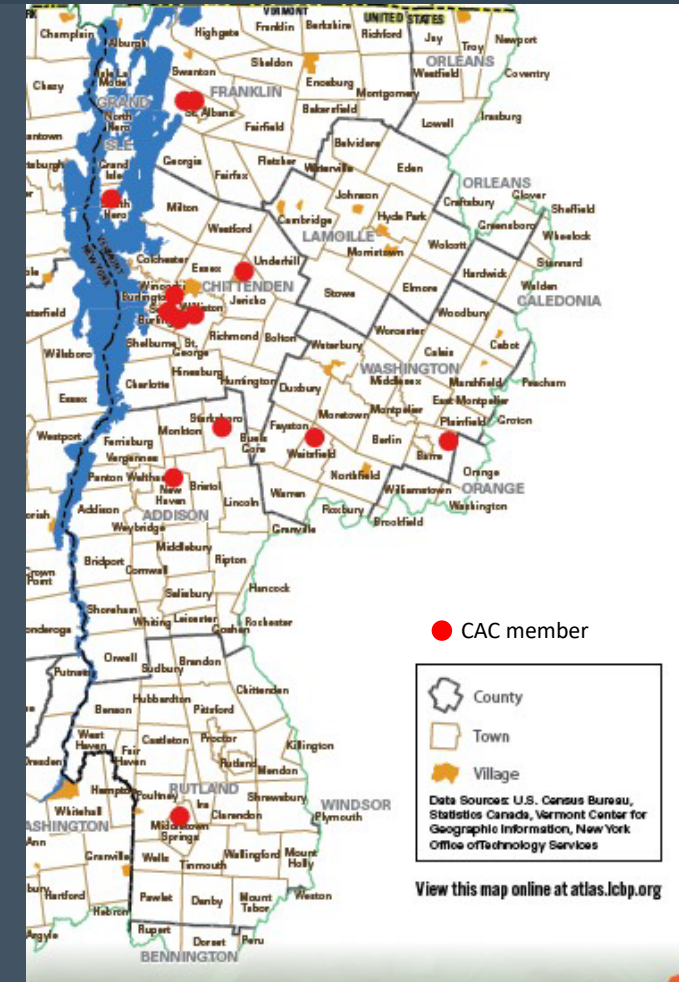
Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee on Lake Champlain's Future (VTCAC)

- Created in 1989 under 10 V.S.A § 1960 to gather and disseminate information and make recommendations about the condition and management of the waters of the Lake Champlain basin region.
- Holds **public meetings to gather data and community input** on issues of concern related to water and wildlife in the basin.
- Submits an **annual report to the Vermont General Assembly with recommended actions** to protect the integrity of the lake (requirement of 10 V.S.A § 1961).
- **Collaborates with the NY and QC CACs** to work on issues of mutual concern and advise the Lake Champlain Steering Committee.

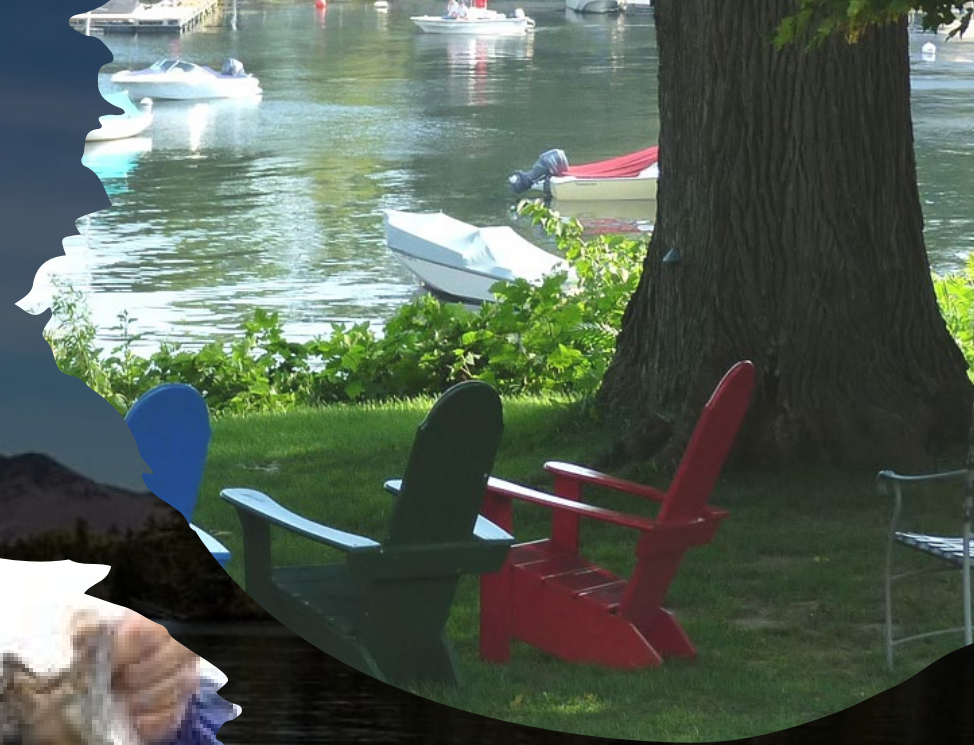


Committee Members

- Denise Smith, Chair, Health Equity and Population Health Professional
- Karina Dailey, Vice-Chair, Environmental Scientist
- Eric Clifford, Dairy Farmer
- Wayne Elliott, Engineer
- Robert Fischer, Water Facility Operator
- Lori Fisher, Nonprofit Executive Director
- Mark Naud, Attorney/Business Owner
- Hilary Solomon, Conservation District Manager
- Representative Kari Dolan
- Representative Carol Ode
- Senator Christopher Bray
- Senator Randy Brock
- Vacant – Public at large
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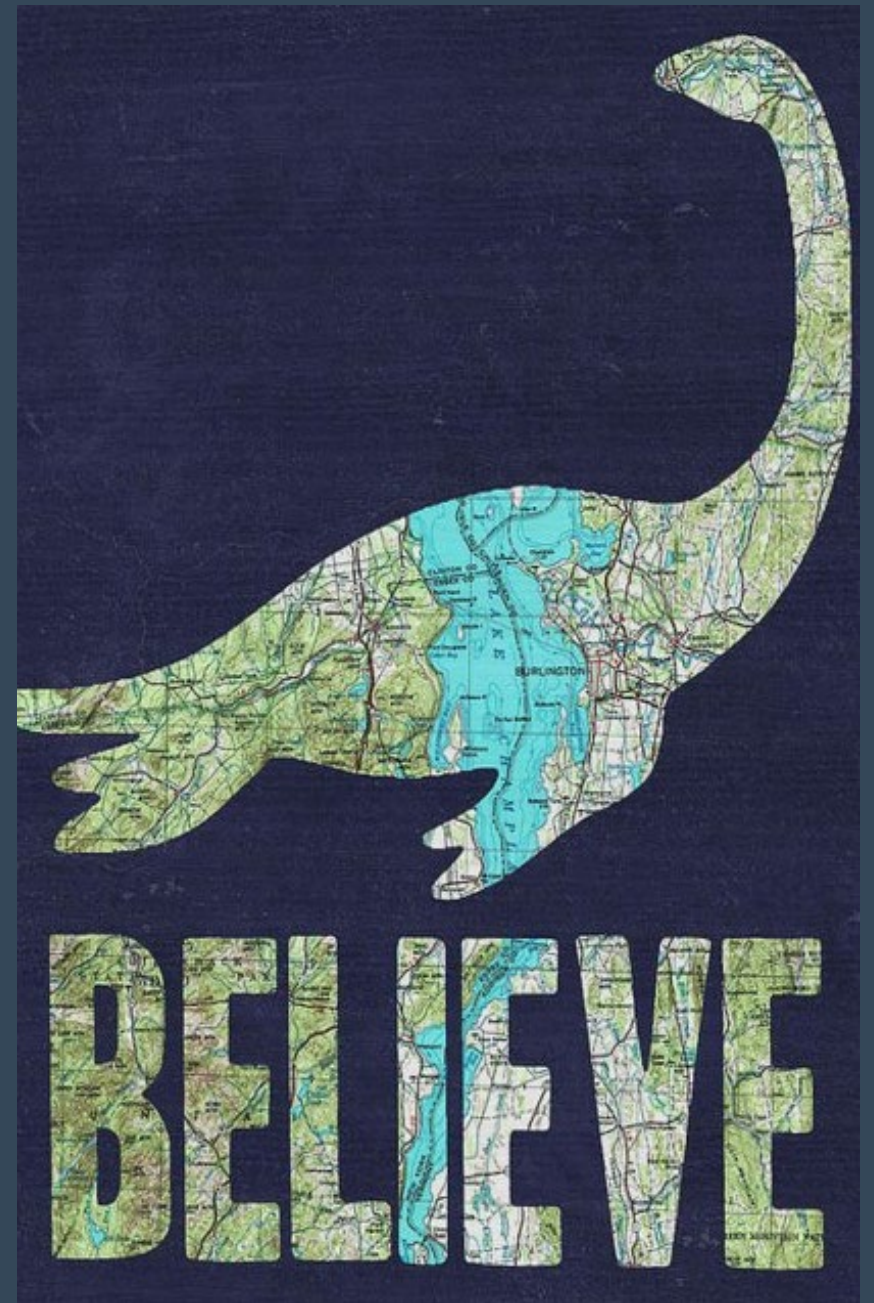


- ECONOMIC
- CULTURE
- HISTORIC
- RECREATION
- QUALITY
- MEDICINAL
- SPIRITUAL
- HEALTH
- PLACE
- VALUE
- NATURAL
- HERITAGE
- PEACE
- FAMILY



RECOMMIT TO OUR
SHARED MISSION TO HEAL LAKE
CHAMPLAIN BY INVESTING
IN WATERSHED RESILIENCE.

BE AS **RESOLUTE** IN OUR
BELIEF THAT WE CAN, AS THE
PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN THE
EXISTENCE OF CHAMP.



Art by: Theo Westlake.

A wide-angle photograph of Lake Champlain under a blue sky with light clouds. The water is calm with gentle ripples. In the distance, a line of trees marks the shoreline.

2024

Lake Champlain Action Plan

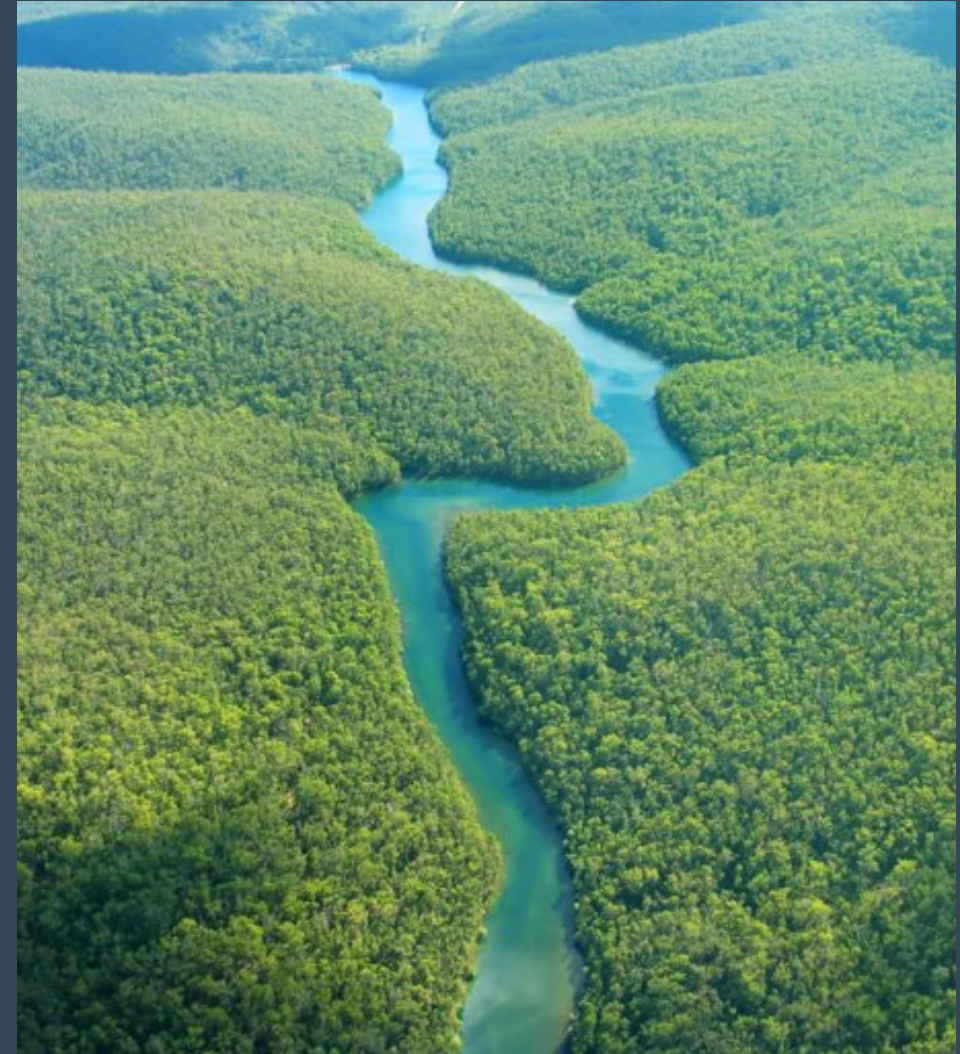
Achieving a Thriving Lake Champlain Basin Ecosystem

PRIORITIES

- Invest in infrastructure, programs, and practices that **BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE** impacts and restore ecological function.
- Increase and improve **EQUITABLE PUBLIC ACCESS** with priority for non-motorized recreation on Lake Champlain and on waters throughout the Lake Champlain Basin.
- Provide **SUPPORT AND RESOURCES TO FARMERS** to facilitate the agricultural transition to sustainability and ensure consistent regulatory enforcement, including review of the 2017 MOU between ANR and VAAFM.
- Fund **ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION OF CONTAMINANTS POLLUTION** including pesticides and chlorides.
- Invest in **AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES** education and management.

Invest in Natural and Developed Infrastructure for Resilience

- Explore an emergency response loan fund to help cover costs related to wastewater failures
- Fully support funding of the State Revolving Loan program
- Expand capacity of the Vermont Rivers Program and organizations working to implement river restoration and protection
- Prioritize investments that support adaptive, resilient, and compact settlement and help Vermont communities



INVEST IN AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) SPREAD PREVENTION

Consider:

- New AIS funding source involving a mandatory boat decal for motorized and non-motorized craft
- Mandatory watercraft inspection and certification program
- High-profile inspection station
- Live bait ban similar to Quebec



EXPAND EQUITABLE PUBLIC ACCESS & RECREATION

- Improve access in the South Lake and for marginalized and historically disenfranchised communities
- Continue investments in outdoor recreation businesses to bolster public access opportunities and Vermont's recreation economy



SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND CONSISTENT REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT

- Accelerate diversification of value-added agricultural products
- Support farms through
 - investments in specialized equipment,
 - full funding of programs offered to the agricultural community,
 - enhanced infrastructure for local distribution of agricultural products,
 - resources to small farms that enable implementation of best practices
- Ensure the enforcement of required agricultural practices and clean water laws is consistent and efficient



DEVELOP SOLUTIONS FOR CONTAMINANTS POLLUTION

- Monitor, assess and mitigate the risk of chemical contamination in our surface and groundwater, especially pesticides and chlorides



Brendan Wiltse

Questions?