

Lake Champlain Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday & Wednesday, April 10-11, 2018

[Hilton Burlington, 60 Battery St., Burlington, VT 05401 "Seasons on the Lake" meeting room](#)

Draft Minutes – Day 1

Tuesday April 10, 2018

9:30 AM Arrive, meet and greet (*coffee etc. provided*)

Steering Committee members: Julie Moore (VT ANR, Chair), Bob Stegemann (NYSDEC), Daniel Leblanc (QC MDDELCC), Pierre Leduc (QC CAC), Craig DiGimmarino (for Dan Dutcher, VTRANS), Lori Fisher (VT CAC), Renee Rouleau (QC Mayor Clarenceville), Alyson Eastman (VT AAFM), Breck Bowden (LC SeaGrant), Bill Ardren (For Mike Winslow, TAC), Andrew Milliken (USFWS), Buzz Hoerr (E&O Advisory Committee), John Kreuger (HAPAC), Laura Treischmann (VT ACCD), Daria Mazey (USACE), Mario Paula (for Rick Balla, EPA R2), Mel Cote (EPA R1),

Phone: Sara Hart (NYS OPRHP), Caitlin Lecker (NY ESD), Christina Marts (NPS)

Staff: Martin Mimeault (QC MDDELCC), Sebastien Bouget (QC MDDELCC), Matt Cosby (NYS District, USACE), Susan Sullivan (NEIWPPC), Jane Ceraso (NEIWPPC), MaryJo Feuerbach (EPA R1), Fred Dunlap (NYSDEC) Bethany Sargent (VT ANR); LCBP: Eric Howe, Kathy Jarvis, Jim Brangan, Colleen Hickey, Ryan Mitchell, Elizabeth Lee, Meg Modley Gilbertson, Ellen Kujawa

Guests: Steve Smith (ECHO), Dave Wheeler (City South Burlington), Tom DiPietro (City of South Burlington), Michel Laliberte (*la Voix del 'Este*), Noah Pollock (VT River Conservancy), Bill Howland, Tom Berry (Sen. Leahy)

10:00 Meeting Begins *Julie Moore, Chair*

- Welcome and Introductions
- Draft Meeting Agenda review
- ACTION ITEM: December, 2017 Steering Committee meeting minutes approval; Buzz Hoerr moved to approve, second by John Kreuger. Minor edit to add Andrew Milliken to the attendance list. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:05 Public Comments (10 min)

10:15 Presentations from recent grant recipients (*Tom DiPietro, City of South Burlington; Steve Smith, ECHO at Leahy Center; Noah Pollock, Vermont River Conservancy*)

- Tom DiPietro spoke about a recent project off Spear Street in South Burlington to address stormwater runoff in a neighborhood, supported by recent grants from LCBP and other organizations.
- Steve Smith, ECHO, spoke about a recent grant to ECHO to support wildlife restoration work, including the endangered spiny softshell turtle, and tying work there at the facility into research that is occurring across the watershed. Buzz noted that ECHO has done a great job sharing content across WPTZ, WCAX, and VT Public Television.
- Noah Pollock spoke about several projects supported by LCBP grants. To-date, they have restored or created nine access points, with interpretive signage for visitors.
- *Pierre asked for presentations in the future to include the award amount to each grantee, match provided with the grant, and the outcomes*

10:45 Brief Jurisdictional Updates (*NY, QC, VT, US Fed Partners*)

- ❖ Bob Stegemann, NYS DEC: Gov. Cuomo announced \$65 million in HAB solution programs on 12 watersheds around the state, including Lake George and Champlain. Wastewater and sewer projects supported at \$300,000; stormwater reduction projects will be supported at \$214,000, salt reduction

at \$164,000, \$20 million for livestock manure storage, and continued support for pharmaceutical take back programs. The LCBP-supported RRAMP backroads program was awarded to CWICNY via NYSDEC for small implementation grants. \$300 million will go into the Environmental Protection Fund grants program.

- ❖ Daniel Leblanc, Quebec MDDELCC: Quebec has had a new budget in place since March 23. There are obligations to modernize 14 water quality regulations. The government has presented modifications to these regulations, and are now out for public comment until the end of the month. New laws will go into effect December 1. This morning, the MDDELCC posted a new plan for 2017-2021 to propose the main actions for the ministry for the next five years. The plan is available on the MDDELCC website. The Quebec budget includes \$248 million for environment actions, highlighting 4 main actions. Funds include support for municipalities for wastewater, adaptation to climate change, flood safety programs, and wetland protection and restoration, and for invasive species spread prevention. Pierre Leduc asked about the Quebec – Vermont agreement for Missisquoi Bay phosphorus reduction. Daniel responded that there is a draft, to be discussed over the next few months. Upcoming elections in Quebec may make scheduling the signing of the agreement difficult. Julie is trying to schedule a meeting with the Minister of Environment in June. Pierre also asked about replacing Martin Mimeault's role as the Quebec coordinator for the LCBP. Daniel responded that there is a request in to replace Martin and they are still waiting to hear a response.
- ❖ Julie Moore, VT ANR: Emerald ash borer has been detected in Vermont, initially in Orange County. AAFM and ANR have been working with partners to conduct a comprehensive survey to determine the extent of the infestations. Also received report card from EPA R1 on Vermont's progress to-date on their implementation of the TMDL plan. VT has completed all but 3 of the milestones to-date, and two of the remaining milestones are nearly complete. The third, establishing a long-term funding solution, is being negotiated in the VT legislature. Lake Carmi experienced numerous HABs last summer and fall. VT ANR is looking to install an in-lake treatment to provide temporary relief to lakeshore residents here, while continuing to work aggressively to reduce watershed pollution inputs. The Clean Water Fund board will meet soon to examine how funds have been spent this fiscal year. ANR has awarded 103 Ecosystem Restoration Grants this year, and has another RFP open until the end of the month. The Clean Water Lecture series is still going each month. Remote participation is encouraged. Clean Water week has been scheduled for the week of July 30, with events across the State to highlight water quality projects to improve Vermont's waters around the State.
Federal Partners –
- ❖ USFWS – the LCFWMC is working toward updating the Fisheries Strategic Management Plan. Andrew will have an update on this plan for the September Steering Committee meeting. USFWS personnel updates: Ryan Crehan is returning to work on wetland restoration. Madeleine Lyttle is retiring at the end of the month. She recently received a national award from Trout Unlimited as a “hero of Mythic proportions”. USFWS and State hatcheries are stocking landlocked Atlantic salmon across the watershed. Brood stock for these fish is developed at White River NFH. World Fish Migration day is coming up in a few weeks; USFWS will be highlighting fish passage at Winooski 1 dam and other upstream barriers to reproduce naturally again in the Winooski River. USFWS staff continue to work with GMP and Burlington Electric to improve downstream fish passage. Andrew has mentioned in previous meetings the importance of removing the Willsboro Dam in NY, on the Boquet River. The fish naturally reproducing in the Boquet are the fish that ascended the newly rebuilt cascades on their own. The sea lamprey control program is continuing this year, with 12 treatments scheduled on tributaries from the Quebec border to Willsboro. Continued control on Morpion Stream and elsewhere. USFWS facilitated a strong discussion with Lake Champlain United angling group regarding cormorant management. Included the history of cormorants and control of this species, and this contributed to improving the conversation around management of this species. USFWS is now issuing permits for management of the species, including for populations that are impacting other species of concern. This is particularly relevant to the 4 Brothers Island population with other T&E birds nesting there. Andrew is hopeful there will be permits on free-swimming fish in the future. NEPA process in place for the Missisquoi Refuge to repair roads from flood damage. Also looking at impacts from spread of AIS into the refuge. The NE F&W conference will be here at the Hilton next week, and will be an opportunity for F&W to show off the work they are doing across the region. 2019 is the International Year of the Salmon, will be working with LCBP and other partners to highlight the restoration of Atlantic salmon as a success story for Lake Champlain.

- Pierre asked about dam removal – do you consider the increased access for sea lamprey breeding ground, and sediment release? Yes, for sea lamprey, there are ways to leave a partial barrier, or it may increase the need to apply lampricide, which is a tradeoff to evaluate. For sediment, this is always something that is factored into the removal process, both in terms of quantity, quality, and contaminants.
- ❖ USACE – Daria reported that there have been personnel changes; Daria is now the official USACE designee to the Steering Committee. Matt Cosby also is here today and will be playing an active role in the Champlain watersheds programs for USACE. The Bartlett Brook project is now complete. Champlain Canal barrier study is now underway. They will be leveraging other resources within USACE partners across the region, including New England and in the Great Lakes, to access the experience of other USCE staff for this project. Other Section 542 projects in the works include a feasibility study for an in-lake treatment option at a wetland in St. Albans Bay to address phosphorus loading. Also doing a Waterbury Dam feasibility study. Spillway and painter gates are contributing to sediment and nutrient loads coming out of the reservoir, and the project will be working to restore the reservoir to a “run of river” mode. The New England District will be leading this study on behalf of the NY District. The Section 542 General Management Plan update has been going through revisions, including the WRDA 2014 language to delegate some responsibilities to the District office. GMP update is at Headquarters for approval. USACE is very engaged in dam removal, especially for small dams. Please contact Daria for potential project opportunities for dam removals to improve water quality and habitat restoration. USACE held a Section 542 informational workshop for potential applicants yesterday at LCBP.
- ❖ EPA – MaryJo reported that the EPA released the report card on VT TMDL implementation. Noted that they have provided a “provisional pass” in recognition of the 25 of 28 milestone accomplishments, and will revisit those remaining 3 milestones later this year. MaryJo reported that Nonpoint funding was restored to FY17 levels in the FY18 Omnibus Bill. Sean Dixon is the new Senior Policy Advisor for the Region. He is very interested in Lake Champlain. Mario reported that the EPA FY18 grant applications for NY, VT and NEIWPC will likely be due in late May/early June.
 - Lori commented that the VT CAC is very interested in the long-term funding for Lake Champlain work. There is a concern about lack of funding in the future within the State of Vermont, and look to EPA to keep pressure on VT to find a long-term funding solution within the State.
- ❖ LCSG – no report, in the interest of time, and Breck deferred to the legislative update from Tom Berry on the FY18 Omnibus bill.
- ❖ NPS – Christina acknowledged the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program and the Scenic Trails Program. Check out the website for the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program to see events planned for this year. NPS did see a bump up on some of their cost-share programs, including the Wild and Scenic River program (has a 50:50 cost share). Deadline for applications is May 25. Other opportunities include Battlefields and Heritage grants.

11:05

Legislative Update (10 min)

- ❖ **Tom Berry (Sen. Leahy)** – Tom noted the letter circulated by Congresswoman Stefanik and Congressman Welch supporting level funding in Fy19. The FY18 Omnibus bill was passed in March. Interior Budget –
 - USFWS now has a budget line for sea lamprey control in Lake Champlain, to reduce GLFC pressure to support this program.
 - Save America’s Treasures program has been restored at \$13 million.
 - National Heritage Area program increased, which will result in a \$17,000 increase for the CVNHP.
 - Clean Water State Revolving Funds in EPA increased \$300 million, and the sam for Drinking water.
 - USGS Water Resources center level funded.
 - GLFC for Lake Champlain funded at \$5 million. Also has funds set aside for Lake Memphremagog fisheries work.

- International Joint Commission – flood study fully funded at \$1 million.
- Lake Champlain Sea Grant – on the cusp of being stepped up to a full Institute program. If this occurs, LCSG should graduate to a \$1 million budget.
- USACE – there is Bill language to encourage USACE to do more work in the 542 program. The National Aquatic Plant Lab in Mississippi is level funded at \$5 million.
- Breck commented that both LCSG and USGS Water Science Center were zeroed out in the President’s budget. National Sea Grant has had the largest mark in history, thanks to the very hard work of Senator Leahy. Breck formally thanked Senator Leahy, the rest of the Vermont Congressional Delegation, and Representative Stefanik for their support for Sea Grant funding.
- President Trump has indicated the potential for a rescission; Tom is working to keep tabs on this. MaryJo noted that the EPA will have a rescission, mostly for state and tribal affairs grants. There is an annual rescission to the LCBP award, which is typical.
- Julie suggested that given we were behind in the schedule, we should move the office relocation discussion to Day 2 on the agenda, after the IJC presentation.

11:15

Advisory Committee Updates (2 min each) CAC: QC

- ❖ Pierre – Quebec CAC – OBVBM is now in their third year for erosion control projects. 86% of farmers have agreed to implement projects. There are 10 acres now in conservation programs along riverbanks. Some farmers have qualified for 90% contribution from MAPAQ for BMP support. \$700/year/acre for compensation from Canada Federal program for similar support programs. Looking for an extension for this program to continue support for the agricultural lands in the Quebec part of the Basin. OBVBM base funding increased from \$150 to \$250K for next 3 years. Funding has been stable since 2009. Amounts to 4% increase per year since 2009. Thanks to everyone involved. Deliverables for new base funding will be discussed with MDDELCC later this month. One of 40 watershed groups across Quebec with similar funding. Working with IJC on the water quality reference to develop a workplan to conduct a literature review of 600 documents across Canada and Europe for lake recovery efforts. Also will identify key players to interview for Missisquoi Bay work. Annual meeting will be June 18.
- ❖ Fred Dunlap – NY CAC met in February with the Lake Placid Land Conservancy to discuss outreach programs to property owners to work on projects that landowners can do on their property for water quality improvement. Some CAC members attended the HAB summit in Ticonderoga in March. HAB summit had a strong suite of speakers, including Angela Shambaugh from VT DEC. Takeaways for the members were that HABs are very extensive across the state, nation, and world. There is still a lot of work to do to address HABs. Bill Wellman, CAC members, provided a tour of a classroom set up for “trout in the classroom”.
 - Lori asked who the HAB Champlain Steering Committee membership includes. Fred will circulate a list of the members. Focus will be on Port Henry and Isle la Motte areas of the NY shoreline.
- ❖ Lori Fisher – VT CAC –
 - The VT CAC has a legislative charge to provide a list of annual CAC priorities to the VT Legislature. The CAC has been focused on wrapping up their 2018 Action plan. Also heard from LCBP staff on new graphics for the new State of the Lake report.

The May meeting will be postponed in favor of a joint meeting with LCBP to do a televised public roll-out of the State of the Lake report. Preparing to submit a roster of nominees to fill vacancies on the CAC membership, and reappointments. Mark Naud recently elected to serve as vice-chair.

- Bill Ardren – TAC has been very busy over the past few months. The new budget development process has wrapped up, and the results will be discussed this afternoon. 56 pre-proposals were submitted in response to the RFPP last fall, requested about 25 full proposals; received 22 proposals. TAC approved the release of a new RFP for the Rock River Geomorphic Assessment project, and reviewed State of the Lake Graphics. One final report has been reviewed since December, on the mercury and cyanotoxins in fish tissue grant awarded to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute/Darrin Fresh Water Institute.
- E&O – E&O written report stands as written.
- HAPAC – the written report stands as written. John spoke about the Spitfire, which has been on the bottom of the lake since 1776. In February 1776, Congress appointed a commission of 3 men to meet with the Canadians. The Chair of the Commission was Benjamin Franklin, who was 70 years old. Other members are from Maryland – Samuel Chase and Charles Carroll. Carroll was educated in France, speaks fluent French, and well-known Catholic layman in the Colonies. April 9, 1776, they reached the home of Philip Schuyler, father in law of Alexander Hamilton. Schuyler talked about his plans for a canal to connect the Hudson and Champlain drainages, and Champlain to Saint Lawrence river.

11:30

Director's Report – *LCBP staff (15 min)*

- LCBP FY2018 Annual Report of Activities – Eric briefly reviewed the FY17 Annual report. Credit to Elizabeth Lee for assembling the report, and to the LCBP team for all of their hard work last year! Eric briefly reviewed other highlights described in the written handout circulated and attached to this meeting summary.
- Education & Outreach Videos – Ryan showed two new videos created from previous tasks to develop new outreach videos:
 - [Watershed for Every Classroom](#)
 - [Volunteer monitoring for cyanobacteria](#)

11:45

NEIWPCC Annual Update to the Steering Committee, Susan Sullivan, Executive Director (30 min)

Susan provided an overview of NEIWPCC mission and structure. NEIWPCC serves as the fiduciary agent for LCBP; all financial obligations (contracts to funding agencies and subagreements to contractors) are with NEIWPCC.

NEIWPCC also has 2 new large contracts with NYS DOH and DEC to work on source water protection plans across the State. Will be hiring 23 new positions to conduct this work.

Also working with NYC on a filtration waiver for their drinking water supplies. EPA R1 and R2 have grants for environmental education grants. Would have been a good opportunity for LCBP to apply for additional education funds.

Susan reviewed the LCBP financial accounts for the next several years, through FFY22. She suggested the Steering Committee send a formal thank you note to the Congressional Delegation for their support in the federal appropriations process.

Mel asked for clarification on the financial report that Susan circulated. These funds are cash balances; nearly all funds are obligated in contracts or subawards.

Susan reported that the proposed NEIWPCC indirect rate for FFY19 is 16.75%. NEIWPCC is waiting on approval for this rate. Susan noted that LCBP does not have any unobligated funding. This could be a problem going forward.

Susan emphasized the benefit of the arrangement with NEIWPCC and LCBP. NEIWPCC can provide support services to LCBP, including assistance with problem solving, partner connections, and collaborating with other NEIWPCC programs. Susan is working on a Strategic Plan with Boston College for NEIWPCC. NEIWPCC can be more nimble than other agencies, which can be beneficial for State partners. NEIWPCC also coordinates a region-wide HAB workgroup, and supported the creation of an app (BLOOMWatch), has coordinated a region-wide TMDL for mercury deposition, is coordinating a NPS conference in Glens Falls at the end of April. Tom Berry asked about partner organization to NEIWPCC that has a comprehensive view that carries the interest NEIWPCC represents in a less official way? For example, is there an NGO that can carry messages NEIWPCC cannot do? For example, the estuaries have an association that represents them that does not receive federal funds that can serve an advocacy role in the appropriations process. There is not currently an advocacy group like this for organizations like NEIWPCC.

12:15

LUNCH (Provided) (60 min) Staff Recognitions – Eric introduced the LCBP Resource Room team to the Steering Committee: Laura Hollowell, Cynthia Norman, and Stephanie Larkin. Eric recognized Kathy Jarvis and Colleen Hickey for their 25 years of work with LCBP, and Martin Mimeault for his upcoming retirement. Several Committee members offered words of recognition for Martin’s work with LCBP and for Lake Champlain.

1:45

FY18 LCBP Draft Budget Task Introduction *LCBP Staff (45 min)*

- LCBP Key Functions – Eric reviewed the LCBP key functions budget, including staff support for LCBP, VT ANR, and NYSDEC. The Key Functions also included tasks for new LCBP computer upgrades, local grants, and additional office space.
- Review of Heritage, Education & Outreach, Technical budgets
 - Jim Brangan and John Kreuger reviewed the Heritage budget. The HAPAC has re-ranked these tasks several times this year at the request of the Executive Committee. Most recently, they reviewed a new proposal from Eric Howe and Jim Brangan to support a 2019 voyage of the Lois McClure up the Lake and Richelieu River to promote the International Year of the Salmon. The ranked list included GLFC support for several items to stretch the NPS funding further this year.
 - E&O budget – Tom Berry recused himself from this conversation. Colleen reviewed the list of tasks proposed by the E&O committee this year. Lori encouraged that we do more to promote the results of local grant outputs. The group spent some time discussing the Public Awareness and Engagement Survey, at \$120,000. Breck commented that National Sea Grant has done this type of assessment over time, and it has been very useful to justify the value of the program to funding agencies. Ryan added that this also is a task in OFA that should be done. MaryJo seconded Breck’s point and noted that the proposed Budget for E&O this year is over \$860,000, and it is very important to know how successful the outreach programs are. Jane agreed that the survey could be useful, and added that NEIWPCC needs to report outcomes of E&O projects in report to EPA. Jane suggested targeting success of LCBP-funded programs (CBEI). Breck pointed out that the vision for this task is to obtain a gauge of a higher level of understanding across the watershed.

- Matt reviewed the Technical Budget Core Projects. The Steering Committee had reviewed these same projects during their last meeting in December, and this was presented as a refresher to the group. Lori Fisher recused herself from this portion of the conversation. Tom Berry returned for this conversation.
- John Kreuger moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the confidential proposals submitted as part of the Request for Pre-Proposals issued in September 2017. Projects selected as part of this process would be awarded after the FY18 funds become available this fall. Second by Daria Mazey. Breck Bowden, Pierre Leduc, and Renee Rouleau recused themselves from the Executive Session due to conflicts of interest. Andrew Milliken noted that USFWS had provided a letter of support for the VNRC proposal but does not have a fiscal obligation to the project. The group agreed that Andrew did not have a conflict of interest for the purposes of the conversation and Andrew participated in the discussion. No further discussion. All in favor to enter into Executive Session.
- **Exit Executive Session at 5:12 PM.**

4:45 PM Meeting Recesses Overnight (Optional Waterfront Green Infrastructure walking tour with Jenna Olson, City of Burlington)

Note: A group dinner is planned for 6:45 PM at [Pascolo Restaurant](#) on Church Street in downtown Burlington.

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[Hilton Burlington, 60 Battery St., Burlington, VT 05401](#)

Draft Minutes – Day 2

Wednesday April 11, 2018

Attendance for Day 2:

Steering Committee members: Julie Moore (VT ANR, Chair), Bob Stegemann (NYSDEC), Daniel Leblanc (QC MDDELCC), Pierre Leduc (QC CAC), Craig DiGimmarino (for Dan Dutcher, VTRANS), Lori Fisher (VT CAC), Renee Rouleau (QC Mayor Clarenceville), Alyson Eastman (VT AAFM), Breck Bowden (LC SeaGrant), Bill Ardren (For Mike Winslow, TAC), Andrew Milliken (USFWS), Buzz Hoerr (E&O Advisory Committee), Laura Treischmann (VT ACCD), Daria Mazey (USACE), Mario Paula (for Rick Balla, EPA R2), Mel Cote (EPA R1), Miro Weinberg (City of Burlington)

Phone: Sara Hart (NYS OPRHP), Caitlin Lecker (NY ESD), Buzz Hoerr

Staff: Martin Mimeault (QC MDDELCC), Sebastien Bouget (QC MDDELCC), Matt Cosby (NYS District, USACE), Susan Sullivan (NEIWPPC), Jane Ceraso (NEIWPPC), MaryJo Feuerbach (EPA R1), Fred Dunlap (NYSDEC) Bethany Sargent (VT DEC); LCBP: Eric Howe, Kathy Jarvis, Jim Brangan, Colleen Hickey, Ryan Mitchell, Elizabeth Lee, Ellen Kujawa, Corey Aydlet (LCBP-VT EcoAmeriCorps), Matt Vaughan (phone)

Guests: Steve Smith (ECHO), Dave Wheeler (City South Burlington), Tom DiPietro (City of South Burlington), Noah Pollock (VT River Conservancy), Bill Howland, Tom Berry (Sen. Leahy); Haley Perot (Sen. Sanders), Jonathan Carmen (Cong. Stefanik); Keith Robinson (USGS), Glenn Benoy (IJC – Canada), Michael Laitta (IJC-US), Pierre-Yves Caux (IJC-Canada); Phone: Bill Werick (IJC LCRR Flood Study team)

8:00 Executive Session: discussion included Advisory Committee membership, a Record of Decision for NY agronomy projects, and the FY18 Record of Decision for Technical Proposals
Exit Executive Session at 9:41 AM.

- **Motion to Approve Record of Decision for NY agronomy projects**
 - Bob Stegemann moved to approve the Record of Decision as presented, second to the motion from Daria Mazey. All in favor. Bob abstained.
- **Motion to Approve nominations for advisory committee membership**
 - Daria moved to approve the committee nominations for TAC and HAPAC as presented, second to the motion from Breck Bowden. All in favor. No abstentions.
- **Motion to Approve the FFY18 LCBP budget**
 - Bob moved to authorize the LCBP to work with FY18 budget as ranked, and support as many projects as possible through the funds available. Second by Andrew Milliken. All in favor. Breck Bowden, Lori Fisher, Pierre Leduc, and Renee Rouleau abstained.

9:45 Meeting re-convenes in Public Session: brief summary of *Agenda* and the *previous day's work* (10 min)

Public Comments (5 min) No comments.

9:50

2018 State of the Lake Report (30 min)

Ryan reviewed graphics for the 2018 State of the Lake report.

- Tributary loading – this is an updated graphic from the 2015 report designed to illustrate phosphorus entering the lake from the various tributaries across the watershed, in relation to flow. The group felt that it would be important to show actual loading to correspond to the loading limits in the TMDL. Breck added that metric tons per square mile is interesting, but we can calculate the tributary loading information, so why not do that? Matt responded that we had to pick one or the other, because there is not room in the hardcopy report for both versions, and we selected load per watershed area at the recommendation of the TAC subcommittee. Breck suggested that we need a graph that explicitly links the load of each of the watersheds to the load highlighted in the TMDL.
- Beach closures figure: there was a suggestion that the beaches that did not have any closures in the time period should be specifically called out with a star or some other distinguishing feature.
- AIS species arrivals – suggestions to fix the green font for the text, as it is difficult to read.
- AIS threats – there was a suggestion to shade the watersheds – Champlain, Saint Lawrence, Hudson, Great Lakes to highlight these regions.
- Boat movement – suggestion to size the arrow or arrow line based on amount of traffic.
- Miro Weinberg commented that we have made major investments in a stormwater utility, green infrastructure, and other water quality improvement. Yet from a quick glance at these graphs, there is no improvement to the phosphorus concentrations in the lake. We need to think about how to illustrate what the lake would be like with a do-nothing approach. Julie noted that changing climate and weather patterns are continually changing the game, and the baseline. This is a dynamic ecosystem, that is actively working against what we are trying to accomplish. We are applying BMPs, which have a benefit, but ultimately we may have to do even more than we anticipate right now. For example, in the tributary loading graphic – the changing river flow is driving the amount of red on the lake concentrations graph. Andrew noted that climate models forecast more intensive rainstorms, and this is our future that we have to deal with. Pierre commented that this is a great opportunity in the report to reinforce the message that climate change is a serious matter and we need to take the opportunity to show that we are fighting it.
- Ice-cover graphic – Buzz suggested connecting ice cover, lake level, and precipitation.
- Land use graphic - Daniel commented that the annual phosphorus loading and land cover donuts and bar chart do not make sense together. How can we divide the two donuts to get load by land cover when each chart uses different land covers? Ryan noted that we are trying to convey the contribution of different land covers by load. Julie suggested that we lump together WWTF and developed lands into one color, and find a different way to break out the difference between developed lands and WWTF. Daria added that the graphic clearly shows developed land use is a big problem, and asked if we can show changes in land use over time. We would need a fair amount of time to develop the necessary historical dataset – perhaps for the next report.

11:00

International Joint Commission Projects: (90 min)

- Lake Champlain Richelieu River Corridor Flood Mitigation Preliminary Options
 - Keith Robinson briefly reviewed the goals of the IJC LCRR flood mitigation study, including the charge to the IJC from the reference to do this work. The main goal is to identify a suite of flood mitigation measures that are acceptable and likely to be implemented by the federal, state, provincial and local governments. The measures also need to be acceptable to the many different constituent groups across the study watershed.
 - Keith noted that there is a clear dichotomy of priorities between the US and Canada participants. US residents clearly do not fully understand the magnitude of damages that occurred in the 2011 spring lake flood in Quebec.

- Bill Werick reviewed the potential mitigation measures. These are not actions that the IJC would take; rather these will be recommendations to the three jurisdictions.
 - 1. Moderate structural alternatives that would change water levels.
 - Options – control structure, inflatable bladder that can be adjusted during potential flood conditions. Problem is that even structural measures will not eliminate flooding in the lake.
 - 2. Moderate structural alternatives that would hold water back in the tributary basins
 - Would include identifying flood mitigation measures in wetland/reservoir storage, other landscape storage functions
 - Keith does not anticipate proposals for new dams, rather tweaking the systems that are in place now.
 - 3. Improved flood forecasting and mapping with better flood response plans
 - Will work with local municipalities to develop flood response plans – would provide towns with earlier warning, and greater accuracy about how the flood will affect the town.
 - 4. Better floodplain management
 - Municipal-level plans that can reduce vulnerability over the long term
- Missisquoi Bay/Lake Champlain Water Quality Reference update
 - Michael Laitta reviewed the mandate of the IJC and the new water quality reference.
 - Pierre-Yves Caux reviewed the IJC approach to the reference
 - Report will include science, policy, networking, and recommendations to address HABs in Missisquoi Bay.
 - Public engagement element
 - Committee advice and review
 - IJC will use existing information and governance mechanisms to:
 - Collect and evaluate the scientific information, as well as past and current national and binational programs, mitigation measures.
 - Make recommendations to reinforce successful efforts and approaches
 - Identify data gaps/limitations
 - Propose possible new approaches

12:00 LCBP Office Relocation

The LCBP team has out-grown the current available space at the Gordon Center House in Grand Isle, VT. There is no capacity to expand the current staffing level, and existing staff are working in very crowded quarters. The LCBP Executive Committee asked Eric to look into alternative LCBP office locations, particularly in the Burlington, VT area for a discussion with the Steering Committee.

- Eric Howe presented on possible office relocation for the LCBP Core staff, and reviewed a Powerpoint that highlighted the current office space, staffing needs, and

a plan to continue and expand LCBP presence in NY, as this was an explicit concern from NYS DEC.

- Tom Berry asked if we have thought about the financial cost moving the office to Burlington? Eric responded that originally, we discussed the concept of a satellite office, which would cost about \$9,000. That expense, plus the Gordon House rent is about \$30,000, and with other added expenses, the total cost of the office is \$55,000 per year, which moves us close to the ballpark of a full office in Burlington.
- Pierre Leduc noted that we should move quickly on this. Hiring at this point is limited by office space and this is especially important with an increasing budget.
- Bob Stegemann commented that Eric makes a good case but Bob is concerned about the ability of NY staff to maintain the current level of engagement with LCBP. Holding meetings in NY will help, but it is enormously important that LCBP's work remain germane to both states and Quebec.
- Susan Sullivan added that NEIWPC has 100 employees across New England and New York. The majority of staff are housed in state or county offices for free, and that should be a consideration. NEIWPC is about to hire 20 new staff in New York and perhaps that should be a part of the discussion as well.
- Andrew Milliken said that he would support moving this discussion to a future Executive Committee meeting. In the past, we've discussed retaining the Gordon House location for meetings. Eric responded that retaining access to the meeting space at the Gordon Center House would certainly be a priority if that was the interest of the Steering Committee.
- Julie proposed moving this topic forward to the Executive Committee for discussion, with special consideration to accessibility to partners in all three jurisdictions.
- Tom Berry noted that this needs to be thoughtfully done in a way that recognizes the status of LCBP as a federally authorized NGO and that encourages collaboration with partners. We should not just take the cheapest square footage we can find.
- Alyson Eastman added that during the Executive Committee meeting, the emphasis was on staff travel decrease rather than a better meeting space for meetings. She expressed empathy to our partners who travel to meet and we could preserve Grand Isle as a meeting space.
- Breck Bowden responded that meeting space in Grand Isle, and recognizing travel costs for our partners is an important part but a Burlington location does present additional meeting opportunities. Meetings could rotate around the watershed, so that is not a problem. The bigger issue is to cover the full basin in outreach activities, and moving to Burlington would allow for more collaboration between similar groups (e.g., LCBP and LCSG) – this is a huge opportunity to increase the impact of what we do.
- The group agreed to push this topic to the Executive Committee for further discussion at their next meeting in June.

Other business (if any) None

12:45

ADJOURN

Meeting Outcomes:

1. *Approval of December 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes*
 - a. *Buzz Hoerr moved to approve, second by John Kreuger. Minor edit to add Andrew Milliken to the attendance list. All in favor. Motion carried.*
2. *Approval of Record of Decision for FY17 NY Agronomy Projects*
 - a. *Bob Stegemann moved to approve the Record of Decision as presented, second to the motion from Daria Mazey. All in favor. Bob abstained.*
3. *Appointments of new members to TAC, HAPAC*
 - a. *Daria moved to approve the committee nominations for TAC and HAPAC as presented, second to the motion from Breck Bowden. All in favor. No abstentions. Simon Bergeron and Steven Peters were appointed to the Heritage Area Program Advisory Committee. Bridget O'Brien and Ryan Davies were appointed to the Technical Advisory Committee.*
4. *Approval of LCBP/CVNHP FFY2018 budget*
 - a. *Bob moved to authorize the LCBP to work with FY18 budget as ranked, and support as many projects as possible through the funds available. Second by Andrew Milliken. All in favor. Breck Bowden, Lori Fisher, Pierre Leduc, and Renee Rouleau abstained.*