

Lake Champlain Basin Program
Draft Meeting Summary - Executive Committee Meeting
Friday February 8, 2019 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Teleconference

1:00 PM Welcome

- **Introductions** around the room, conference call participants
- **Members:** Emily Boedecker (Chair; VT ANR), Bob Stegemann (NYSDEC), Pierre Leduc (QC CAC), Brian Steinmuller (NYS Ag&Markets), Neil Kamman (TAC Chair), MaryJo Feuerbach (EPA R1), Mario Paula (EPA R2), Daniel Leblanc (QC MDDELCC), Stefanos Bitzikidis (QC MDDELCC)
- **LCBP:** Eric Howe, Ellen Kujawa, Fred Dunlap, Meg Modley Gilbertson
- **Partner updates**
 - **Daniel Leblanc** – introduced Stefanos Bitzikidis, who is the new Lake Champlain Coordinator for Quebec. Daniel then left the meeting to address an emergency.
 - **Emily Boedecker** –
 - Emily noted that she spoke with the Minister of Environment Benoit Charette
 - Very pleased to receive a decision from the Environmental Court this week regarding a CLF challenge to the NPDES permit. All challenges dismissed and found in favor of the State. Operators of the WWTFs are relieved to know that they may continue operating under their current permits.
 - Organizational change within VT DEC around the Clean Water Program; the CWP will be elevated to the Commissioner’s office. Neil Kamman will be spending about 50% of his time working with the Clean Water team. Kari Dolan, former director of the program, is now in the State legislature. Neil will be working with the team to look at streamlining operations in the program. Emily is hopeful that there will be a long-term Clean Water funding source from the legislature this session and the Clean Water Program will be finely tuned to receive and manage those funds when they become available. This also is a priority for Governor Scott.
 - **Bob Stegemann** - noted that there have been ice jams on the Ausable River in the Jay and Upper Jay area. USACE will be there to look at it next week.
 - **Brian Steinmuller** – NYS DAM released Round 24 Ag NPS awards and are working through the contracting phase. Statewide program, but additional points go to proposals in the Lake Champlain Basin because of the phosphorus TMDL here. The next Ag Non-Point RFP will be released later this spring. NYS DAM also recently announced a new opportunity for a Source Water Buffer program to protect drinking water sources. Lake Champlain is included as eligible in this program. Easements also can be eligible. Opportunity will close in mid-January 2020. \$5 million available statewide. Climate Resilient Farming program offers grants to farms to help alleviate flood and erosion concerns as well as adaptation to drought conditions.
 - **Stefanos Bitzikidis**– no news beyond his new appointment.
 - **Pierre Leduc** – Announced sad news that the Chair of OBVBM passed away last Saturday after a long fight against Leukemia. He was the former mayor of Notre-Dame-de-Stanbridge. Both MRCs represented on the Steering Committee appointees

are Renee Rouleau and now Simon Lajeunesse to represent the MRC Brome-Missisquoi going forward. Simon is the Water Management Coordinator working for the MRC.

- **EPA Region 1** – MaryJo reported that they have been back at work for 2 weeks since the furlough ended and they are in catch-up mode. EPA R1 has been working with VT and LCBP on the TMDL projects. EPA R1 Administrator Alex Dunn has moved on to another position in the EPA. No news yet on who the new EPA R1 administrator will be.
- **EPA Region 2** – Mario echoed MaryJo’s comments regarding catching up from furlough. There may be some news regarding invasive species in the next few months.
- **LCBP updates**
 - Trip to Washington, DC – Eric, Jim Brangan, and Meg Modley Gilbertson traveled to Washington, DC at the end of January to meet with staff from the Congressional delegation representing the Lake Champlain watershed.
 - FY19 VT-TMDL projects have been reviewed by TAC, and will be reviewed by this committee in March.
 - Craig DiGimmarino will likely be replacing Dan Dutcher as the VT Agency of Transportation representative on the Steering Committee.

ACTION ITEM: Approve Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2019 Executive Committee

- Motion By: Neil Kamman
- Second by: Brian Steinmuller
- Discussion on the motion: None offered.
- Vote: all in favor.
- Abstentions: Bob Stegemann, Brian Steinmuller.

1:30 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION: Grant Award Decisions (LCBP staff)

- Review of Applications to local and technical grant opportunities
- Motion to enter into Executive Session by Bob Stegemann, second by MaryJo Feuerbach. All in favor.

ACTION ITEM: Approve Records of Decision for Pollution Prevention and Habitat Conservation and the Enhanced BMP grant programs

- Motion By: Bob Stegemann
- Second by: Neil Kamman
- Discussion on the motion: no discussion.
- Vote: all in favor
- Abstentions: Pierre Leduc abstained.

Pierre Leduc recused himself due to conflict of interest with one of the grant proposals in the Enhanced BMP grant program.

3:00 PM Review draft LCBP FY19 Key Functions Budget (Eric Howe)

- Eric will review an initial draft of the base LCBP budget for Fiscal Year 2019
- Tabled to next meeting due to absence of several Committee members.

Note – this agenda is a DRAFT. If you have suggestions regarding content, please communicate them to Eric Howe at ehowe@lcbp.org.

3:30 PM Adjourn

Anticipated Outputs for this meeting include:

1. Approval of meeting summary from January 17, 2019 LCBP Executive Committee meeting
2. Approval of Record of Decisions for PPHC, Enhanced BMP.

Upcoming Meetings:

February 21, 2019: LCBP Executive Committee (Full day, Grand Isle)

March 21, 2019: LCBP Executive Committee (Full day, Grand Isle)

April 9-10, 2019: Lake Champlain Steering Committee (Auberge West Brome, QC)