

Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee (VTCAC) on Lake Champlain's Future
Monday, December 9, 2019, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Shelburne Town Offices, Meeting Room 1 (2nd Floor)
5420 Shelburne Road, Shelburne, VT 05482

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Mark Naud (Chair), Bill Howland (Vice-Chair), Bob Fischer, Eric Clifford, Wayne Elliott, Rep. Leland Morgan, David Mears, Lori Fisher

Committee Members Absent: Sen. Randy Brock, Sen. Ginny Lyons, Rep. Carole Ode, Hilary Solomon, Jeff Wennberg

LCBP Staff: Lauren Jenness, Colleen Hickey

Public Guests: Diane Bothfeld, Crea Lintilhac, Marli Rupe, James Maroney, Stephan, Vanessa Hampton, Roy Shea, Mark Berger

Meeting summary by Lauren Jenness, Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP)

5:00 – 5:15 pm

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Public Comments

Crea Lintilhac – North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) annual conference was hosted in Burlington in November. One of the presentations pertinent to this group was presented by Don Meals and Dave Braun of Stone Environmental titled “Assessment of Phosphorus Loads from Tile Drainage in the Jewett Brook Watershed of St. Albans Bay”. Link to abstract:

<https://www.nalms.org/nalms2019/program/concurrent-session-e/>

Roy Shea expressed his concern of concentrated animal feeding operations in Vermont that are, in his view, desecrating the lake with their practices. Neighbors tested the water quality of a stream running to his municipal water supply and found high levels of E. coli. He stated his belief that the State of Vermont and Department of Ag has failed the community and it is unbelievable that the CAFOs are able to do that. Mark Naud answered that he understands there is a lot of concern with the MOU regarding enforcement of agricultural land and that it is an issue certain the group will be discussing.

3. Review and vote on Draft October 21st VTCAC Meeting Summary

Bill Howland provided a written correction to clarify some of his comments from the meeting. Lauren Jenness incorporated his corrections into the approved meeting summary.

Leland Morgan moved to approve the meeting summary with the change above; Eric Clifford seconded. Wayne Elliott abstained as he was absent.

5:15 – 6:30 pm

Guest Presentation: The State of Vermont's Agriculture Economy – Diane Bothfeld, Director of Administrative Services and Dairy Policy, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets

- Diane's presentation lasted until 7:30pm. VTCAC members and public guests asked clarifying questions about the data presented and shared their opinions about the state of Vermont's agricultural economy.
- There were a few questions that the presentation didn't answer as the data wasn't readily available. VTCAC members would like to learn:
 - how dairy farm size in Vermont has changed over time
 - the breakdown of orchard type in Vermont
 - phosphorus fertilizer and feed trends in Vermont
- In sum, VTCAC members hope to advise the State legislature to address agricultural-related issues of concern including:
 - Loopholes in legislation/regulation
 - Importation of phosphorus-laden fertilizer and feed
 - Lack of leadership in addressing agriculture problems in a systematic way
 - Lack of farm freedom to shift current methods of agriculture for better farm viability and water quality

6:30 – 7:00 pm

4. Working Session: 2020 Lake Champlain Action Plan

As Diane's presentation went later than planned, this agenda item was moved to a conference call working session with VTCAC members, date TBD.

5. VTCAC Staff Update, Next Meeting

Mark Naud updated the group on the status of the Vermont Coordinator position which is currently vacant. Until this position is filled LCBP staff will be helping to coordinate the VTCAC meetings.

The following resolution was moved by David Mears; Bill Howland seconded. All VTCAC members in attendance approved unanimously.

"Resolved, the Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee on Lake Champlain's Future (VTCAC) authorizes the Chair of the VTCAC to request that the Lake Champlain Basin Program and Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation – Water Investment Division pause the hiring and staffing process for the Vermont Coordinator and VTCAC staff support role until the VTCAC has convened and provided a recommendation regarding its expectations and requirements for staffing support. The VTCAC will convene for this purpose on January 13, 2020 and provide its recommendation no later than January 15, 2020"

Next meeting is scheduled for January 13th, 2020

Materials: • Draft October 21st VTCAC Meeting Summary • The State of Vermont's Agriculture Economy • Vermont Dairy Data Summary • Draft 2020 Lake Champlain Action Plan