

**Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee (VTCAC) on Lake Champlain's Future  
Monday, January 13th, 2020, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

**Shelburne Town Offices, Meeting Room 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
5420 Shelburne Road, Shelburne, VT 05482**

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present:** Mark Naud (Chair), Bill Howland (Vice-Chair), Wayne Elliott, Rep. Leland Morgan, Lori Fisher, Eric Clifford, Bob Fischer, Rep Carole Ode, Sen. Randy Brock, David Mears, Hilary Solomon

**Committee Members Absent:** Jeff Wennberg, Sen. Ginny Lyons

**LCBP Staff in Attendance:** Eric Howe, Lauren Jenness

**Public Guests:** Vanessa Hampton, Roy Shea, Mark Berger, Neil Kamman, Thea Wurtzburg, Crea Lintilhac, Haley Pero, James Maroney, Zack Porter, Tom Berry, Cheryl Shea

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

**5:00 – 5:15 pm**

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Public Comments**

Roy Shea stated his continued discouragement at the finger pointing back and forth between State agencies that continue to allow CAFOs to dump into the lake without any repercussions. Vanessa Hampton brought in water samples from Button Bay in August containing blue-green algae to demonstrate visually the poor health of the lake.

James Maroney expressed his concern of H232 which is coming before the legislature as it would increase farm exemptions from nuisance liability. He also announced that he is hopeful but still wary that David Zuckerman is running for Governor in relation to changing the agricultural landscape in a positive direction.

- 3. Review and vote on Draft December 9th VTCAC Meeting Summary**

Wayne Elliott moved to approve the meeting summary; Lori Fisher seconded. Discussion: none

**5:15 – 5:45 pm**

- 4. VTCAC Staff Update –*Eric Howe (LCBP) and Neil Kamman (VTDEC)***

A discussion took place on the future of the Vermont Coordinator staff position that supports the VTCAC work.

- At the last VTCAC meeting a resolution was passed to recommend VTCAC pause the hiring process for the VT Coordinator position until the CAC members had a chance to provide a recommendation regarding its expectations and requirements for staffing support.
- The hiring process, as Neil explained, couldn't be put on hold in fairness to State staff as the Vermont Coordinator position has a number of roles and responsibilities in addition to supporting the CAC.
- Mark, Neil, and Eric have been in communication about CAC needs and hopes to find a solution that works for all involved and balances the needs of LCBP, VTCAC, and the State of Vermont.
- There are different options and models available to support the VTCAC.
  - 1- Keep things basically the way they are
  - 2- Have a LCBP staff person support the VTCAC as well as the NYCAC and coordinate with QCCAC. This is in the initial planning phase and would mean LCBP hiring a new staff person specifically to work with the three CACs with part of their charge to bring the three CACs together on an annual basis.
- The following are key points from the discussion –
  - It's no secret that it can sometimes be awkward for a State person to fill the role of supporting the VTCAC due to conflicting views and alliance of the CAC and State
  - Having a State person fill the role can be beneficial as it is important for the CAC to learn what is happening inside the State and maintain executive branch of State connections. It is a strength of the VTCAC to have this strong connection.
  - It's important to balance the opportunity to collaborate more with the other CACs to speak with a potentially stronger, unified voice while also not losing inside State expertise and connections.
  - The State wants to make sure the CAC has continued access to State information and continues to be responsive to CAC requests
  - CAC members agreed that if the group were contentious about it an employee of LCBP could provide the needed connectivity to the State.
  - No matter the outcome of where the staff position is housed, the funding comes from the EPA and flows through LCBP.
  - It's possible that the duties of the Vermont Coordinator could be split up across multiple staff members to accommodate all needs, at least in this transition period.
  - Neil as well as Emily Bird will be the primary State contacts for the CAC in this transition period. It's valuable for them to know the workplan for 2020.
  - The CAC has a very important role in the LCBP Steering Committee which helps to steer millions of dollars toward water quality work. It's important to maintain connectivity and work synergistically.

**5:45 – 6:45 pm**

**5. Working Session: Legislative Day Logistics; Review of the Final 2020 Lake Champlain Action Plan**

Action Plan: CAC members reviewed the drafted Action Plan and made suggestions to edit the images of the plan to show an algae bloom, demonstrating the need for legislative action.

Legislative Day:

- CAC members identified the Natural Resources and Agricultural Committees as priorities with the potential scheduling dates of February 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.
- CAC members are in favor of becoming more active in providing input on certain pieces of legislation through the lens of Action Plan priorities.
- CAC members will begin to collect talking points that speak to the Action Plan in preparation for Legislative Day.
- Once a date is chosen for Legislative Day it will be sent out to the public notice groups.

### **6:45 – 7:00 pm**

#### **6. VTCAC Next Meeting**

- Next meeting dates: March 16<sup>th</sup>, April 13<sup>th</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup>
- Need scheduled time to discuss CAC membership as five terms are up and one position is vacant
- Potential meeting topics discussed:
  - Dairy transition, what does it look like and what are the impacts to water quality – deep dive topic
  - Consideration related to agricultural enforcement and the MOU between DEC and Agency of Agriculture
  - Recreation and its impacts on water quality
  - Explanation of new VTDEC Water Investment Division and Clean Water Service Providers
  - Payment for ecosystem services
  - Data monitoring and performance criteria
  - Plastics
  - 3-acre retrofit rule for stormwater utilities

#### **Materials:**

- Draft December 9<sup>th</sup> VTCAC Meeting Summary
- Draft 2020 Lake Champlain Action Plan