

**Lake Champlain Basin Program  
Technical Advisory Committee meeting  
Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 10 AM – 3 PM**

**Held in-person at the LCBP office with remote sign-in option  
54 West Shore Rd, Grand Isle, VT 05458**

**Approved TAC meeting summary**

**TAC Members:** Jennifer Callahan, Ryan Cunningham, Bryan Dore, Laurie Earley, Michele Fafette, Peter Isles, Neil Kamman, Steve Kramer, Margaret Murphy, Bridget O'Brien, Helen Polanco, Andrew Schroth, Daniel Tremblay

**LCBP Staff:** Mae Kate Campbell, Eric Howe Meg Modley, Matthew Vaughan, Sarah Coleman, Sarita Croce, Erin Vennie-Vollrath, Theresa Vander Woode

**1. Updates, announcements, public comments**

- Neil Kamman welcomed Helen Polanco to the TAC as the newly appointed New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) designee. Helen introduced herself and provided an overview of her background. A round of introductions were made.
- Neil (VTDEC): I spent part of Town Meeting Day cruising Lake Champlain tributaries including Putnam Creek - very interesting floodplain forest full of sediment from the flood. I also visited Lewis Creek and took a video of active channel adjustment. We've received concern from the public about pollution coming from active channel adjustment events and thought this could be a teachable moment. The Vermont General Assembly is on break this week, lots of conversations have been occurring about flood resilience.
- Peter (VTDEC): Update on alum permitting. We are within a week of a releasing draft of the permit for Lake Morey alum treatment. This will be important for the Lake Carmi treatment, feasibility study results should be out this week.
  - Neil: Will it be the same model?
  - Peter: The calculation and modeling approach will be the same. The actual quantity and cost of the two treatments is expected to be different.
- Neil: Current discussion around discontinuing aeration system in Lake Carmi this year.
  - Peter: Alum treatment will happen next year at the earliest.
- Andrew (UVM): We just published some data from Lake Carmi in *Water Resources Research* that takes about what we've seen in Carmi over 3-years of aeration and LCBP project looking at spatial loading in Missisquoi Bay. Big credit to Ashton Kirol.
- Erin (NYSDEC): We will be releasing the final draft of the Lake Champlain watershed implementation plan shortly.
- Matt (LCBP): Thanks to TAC for reviewing the research proposals. It was a really interesting suite this year. On that process, Neil and our team will present TAC's recommendation to the LCBP Executive Committee on 3/14 and to the Steering Committee in April. *State of the Lake 2024* is coming along. The release date is planned for June 5th, and we will be canceling the June TAC meeting. We are moving forward

with the purchase of a water quality monitoring buoy for the Northeast Arm of Lake Champlain. Thanks to those who contributed to the design of that buoy – it will have a dissolved oxygen thermistor chain. I've been sharing data on the 2023 flood, tomorrow I will be sharing that twice, once with VTDEC and also during Love the Lake.

- Neil: Question of how phosphorus (P) loading from the July 2023 flooding squares up with the total maximum daily load (TMDL) and does it set us back for 'X' number of years?
  - Matt: We see a lot of inter-annual variability. Loading around flooding time was about half of the annual TMDL, but storms usually provide most of the phosphorus in a given year. In terms of what that means in the short term and long term for P loading. In the main lake, the particulate P usually settles out, but we did see short-term impacts to productivity due to turbidity. We saw internal loading driving dynamics in the late season.
- Meg (LCBP): There is a ton going on! We are in the middle of boat launch steward interviews.
- Mae Kate (LCBP): We currently have two requests for proposals open – one for land acquisition and conservation, and the other for relationship building with disadvantaged communities.
- Margaret: The state of the lake fisheries meeting will be held March 23<sup>rd</sup> with the Lake Champlain fish cooperative.
- Eric: World Water Day is coming up on March 22<sup>nd</sup> - LCBP is hosting an event at the Champlain Center Mall on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Review and approve summary of previous TAC meeting*

Motion: To approve the summary from the January 2024 TAC meeting

By: Laurie

Second: Jenn

Vote: All in favor

Motion: To enter executive session

By: Jenn

Second: Peter

*Exit executive session*

Motion: To advance TAC's recommendation on the research proposals to the Executive and Steering Committees

By: Laurie

Second: Jenn

Vote: All in favor