

Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee (VTCAC) on Lake Champlain's Future

October 7th, 2024

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Approved Meeting Summary

Recording [here](#)

Committee Members Present: Denise Smith (Chair), Karina Dailey (Vice Chair), Wayne Elliot, Lori Fisher, Andrew Milliken, Hilary Solomon, Alison Spasyk

Committee Members Absent: Breck Bowden, Sen. Randy Brock, Eric Clifford, Rep. Kari Dolan, Bob Fischer, Sen. Martine Laroque Gulick, Rep. Carol Ode

LCBP Staff in Attendance: Katie Darr, Eric Howe

Presenters: Eric Howe

Public Guests: Jim Carrier

Meeting summary prepared by Katie Darr, Lake Champlain Basin Program

1. **Welcome and Introductions** (5 min) – Denise Smith, Chair

2. **Public Comments** (5 min) – Denise Smith, Chair

No public comments were made.

3. **Chair's Update** – Denise Smith, Chair

Denise shared takeaways from the CAC leadership Action Plan meetings with Secretary Moore and Secretary Tebbetts. The meetings were productive and provided additional context and consideration for the requests in the Action Plan. No public updates yet on how ANR and AAFM will handle the EPA ag enforcement directive.

Denise shared details about the Lake George Septic Inspection Program results shared at the September 9th LCBP Steering Committee. Katie will schedule a presentation for the VTCAC about this.

Denise and Rep. Ode attended the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Summit which was focused on the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network.

4. **ACTION ITEM:** Review and vote on Draft September 9th meeting summary (5 min) – Karina Dailey, Vice Chair

- Motion to approve the meeting summary by: Lori Fisher
- Second by: Hilary Solomon
- Discussion: None
- Abstentions: None
- Vote: All in favor

5. **LCBP Update** – Eric Howe, Director – Lake Champlain Basin Program

Eric provided an update on recent and upcoming LCBP activities. Since its release in June, over 5,000 copies of the State of the Lake report have been distributed. The Boat Launch Steward season is in its final week, Meg or Lauren can provide an update at a future meeting. The new funding agreements are in place and sum to almost

\$21M with \$19M from EPA in Section 120 base funding or BIL funding, \$1.6M from the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, and \$500,000 from the National Park Service to support the heritage area. The LCBP Executive committee meets on October 8th and will feature a presentation about Vermont Conservation Design and the [Biofinder Website prioritization tool](#). On December 5th Corrie Miller and the Vermont Dam Task Force will be hosting a free workshop on removing dams and right-sizing culverts (learn more and register by November 1 [here](#)).

6. 2025 Lake Champlain Action Plan Drafting – Denise Smith, Chair

The committee walked through outstanding questions and track changes in the document. The committee was supportive of a longer document instead of a shorter action plan with supplementary documents. The approval vote will happen at the November 4th meeting.

7. Meeting Wrap-Up Discussion

The VTCAC is scheduled to meet next November 4th from 5-7pm via Zoom (moved up a week due to the Veteran's Day holiday).