

**Lake Champlain Steering Committee
FINAL Meeting Summary**

December 14, 2023 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM
IN PERSON/HYBRID

Location: West Side Ballroom
253 New York Road, Plattsburgh, NY 12903

ATTENDANCE:

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Joe Zalewski (Chair, NYS DEC), Nathalie Provost (Quebec MELCC), Julie Moore (VTANR), Walt Lender (Chair, NY CAC), Pierre Leduc (Chair, Quebec CAC), Denise Smith (Chair, VT CAC), Buzz Hoerr (Chair, E&O Committee), John Krueger (Chair, HAPAC), Neil Kamman (Chair, TAC), Mel Cotê (EPA R1), Jennifer Curran (USACE), Anne Jefferson (Lake Champlain Sea Grant), Ryan Cunningham on behalf of Brian Steinmuller (NYS Dept. Ag & Markets), Brandon Olsen (NYS Empire State Trade Development), Daniel Mackay (NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation), Jean-François Ouellet (Quebec MELCCFP), Laura Trieschmann (VT ACCD), Antony Tseng (EPA R2 for Rick Balla), Jennifer Callahan (VT Trans for Craig Digiammarino), Megan Moir (on behalf of Mayor Weinberger)

STAFF: LCBP: Eric Howe, Mae Kate Campbell, Kerry Crowningshield, Katie Darr, Colleen Hickey, Lauren Jenness, Elizabeth Lee, Ryan Mitchell, Meg Modley Gilbertson, Matthew Vaughan, Logan Devaney, Grace Palmer, Erin Vennie-Vollrath (LCBP NY Coordinator NYS DEC), Sarah Coleman (LCBP VT Coordinator, VT ANR), Sarita Croce (NEIWPC), Daniel Tremblay (Quebec MELCCFP), Helen Polanco (NYS DEC), MaryJo Feuerbach (EPA R1), Bryan Dore (EPA R1), Michele Fafette (EPA R2), Phil Giltner (NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation), Steve Garceau (MELCCFP), Karyn Hanson (DEC), Karin Stainbrook (NYS DEC)

GUESTS: Tom Berry (GLFC), Rebecca Ellis (Sen. Welch's Office), Ahren Von Schnell (Cong. Stefanik's Office), Thomas Renner (Cong. Balint's Office), Connie Mandeville (Assemblyman Billy Jones' Office), Todd Chaudhry (USGS), Guy Parenteau (MELCCFP), Geri Favreau (Clinton County Historical Association), Craig Russel (Valcour SAR), Ed Scollon, Alison Webbinaro (N. Country Rep for Gov's Office), Art Cohn, John Rock (Gateway), Helen Nerska (Clinton County Historical Association), AJ Smith (NYSDEC)

**Teleconference and webinar open, networking
MEETING BEGINS**

**9:30AM
10:00AM**

INTRODUCTIONS: Joe Zalewski, NYS DEC Chaired this meeting.
Joe welcomed the group to the meeting and led a round of introductions.

Approval of Summary of previous meeting

ACTION ITEM: Approve [Meeting Summary](#) from **September 21, 2023**, Steering Committee Meeting

- Motion By: John Kreuger
- Second by: Julie Moore
- Discussion on the motion: The invasive species section in the meeting needs some clean up.
- Vote: All in favor
- Abstentions: None

Public Comment

10:20AM

Joe invited members of the public to provide comments. Geri Favreau, Chair of the Clinton County Historical Association (CCHA) welcomed the Steering Committee to Plattsburgh and shared appreciation for LCBP/NEIWPC funding. Geri shared background on CCHA and introduced Helen Nerska who more closely manages LCBP-funded projects. Helen seconded her appreciation for funding and shared some accounts of how the funding has impacted the work of CCHA, particularly the internship grants.

John Rock (Battlefield Memorial Gateway) provided comments on the background of the Gateway program and the group's plans for development at Crab Island and on the Plattsburgh waterfront. The project and infrastructure will commemorate the events surrounding the War of 1812, Battle of Valcour, and other notable historic events that occurred in the area.

Eric Howe shared that Helen was the recipient of the first CVNHP Director's Award, in 2022.

Brief Updates

10:25AM

Congressional Updates

- Senator Welch: Rebecca Ellis shared that the U.S. Federal budget expired September 30th and is continuing to operate under a continuing resolution. The next expiration deadline is February 2, 2024. Senators Welch and Sanders asked for robust funding for Section 120, the National Heritage Area program, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the sea lamprey program, and for the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). She added that the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) was making its way through the House and Senate for reauthorization. The bill goes through this process every two years and has been reauthorized every time it was introduced. Of interest to the Steering Committee in particular were updates to Section 542. The Vermont delegation asked for the required applicant cost-share to be reduced from 35% to 10%, for the cost-share for dam studies to be reduced, for an evaluation of the Winooski river watershed flood and study, and USACE to incorporate green infrastructure into planning and design.
- Representative Stefanik: Ahren Von Schnell shared that the Congresswoman continues to support LCBP and program and shared they continue to be accessible to the public and the program.

- Representative Balint - Thomas Renner echoed Rebecca's updates. Congresswoman Balint has submitted similar measures in the House that were presented in the Senate.

Jurisdictional Updates (States, Provincial, US Federal)

- Joe Zalewski, NYSDEC referred the Committee to the written update.
- Julie Moore, VT ANR referred the Committee to the written update.
- Nathalie Provost, QC MELCCFP said she had not prepared a written update. She shared that some Quebec representatives were trying to work with their Canadian representatives to determine what will happen with the International Joint Commission (IJC) final report flood study. She added that she would report to the Committee with any updates as they occur.
- Jean-François Ouellet, QC MELCCFP shared he had good news and bad news to report. In 2022, positive eDNA samples were discovered for round goby in the Richelieu River at the St Ours Dam. Sampling this year found three captures of round goby upstream of the St Ours dam. It is a progression of round goby, but have not yet found any detections upstream after further monitoring. The Ministry and partners are also doing public outreach to alert them of round goby situation, and is working with Parcs Canada to conduct eDNA sampling in the Chambly Canal. There also was an observation of grass carp last June at the St Ours Dam fish passage location. eDNA surveys upstream were negative. We will be working on 2024 workplan in January, focusing on these two species as well as on VHS, because round goby is a carrier of that virus. Will be filling a technician and biologist position as well to support this effort.
- Bryan Dore, EPA R1 - refer to written updates. EPA is drafting programmatic guidance for the Lake Champlain geographic program. EPA is doing this now because of the growth of program, from \$4M 8 years ago to now \$34M. We will continue to update the Steering Committee members as we progress. Planning to bring for Committee review later this winter.
 - Neil Kamman, TAC Chair, asked about BABA (Buy America Build America) that was referenced in the written updates - curious about guidance for the Program to implement BABA to program recipients. In VT DEC, this is a complex area about who ultimately bears responsibility.
 - MaryJo Feuerbach, EPA R1 responded that if there is need for further guidance, please talk to us. We can provide. General program guidance is developed every 10 years.
- Antony Tseng, EPA R2 - No additional updates for R2.
- Jennifer Curran, USACE: Held an informational meeting for the Section 542 program yesterday. There was a lot of participation at the meeting, and interest in the program. Continue working on the Champlain Canal barrier project to stop potential spread between watersheds. Have an agreement with NY DEC waiting to sign. Hopefully that will move forward this spring.

Written updates submitted by Committee members may be viewed at [this link](#).

Informational Presentation: Overview of Adirondack Road Salt Reduction

10:40AM

Task Force: Report and Recommendations

Dr. AJ Smith, Assistant Director of the Division of Water at NYS DEC

- Dr. Smith served as NYSDEC rep on the NY Adirondacks Road Salt Reduction Task Force.
- Provided overview of water quality findings related to road salt in the Adirondacks. ([Link to presentation](#)). Water quality standards in the Adirondacks are currently focused on drinking water standards. Looking at adopting additional standards as a result of the report, including standards related to aquatic communities and corrosivity. Priority recommendations include the development of road salt reduction targets including new water quality standards and environmental assessment and monitoring guidelines; implementation of best management practices that reduce overall quantity and frequency of salt applications; establish snow and ice removal training like New Hampshire's Green Snow Pro certification; funding programs that incentivize use of BMPs; create public outreach and education campaigns. Recommended pilot studies include: selective vegetative cutting for managing cold spots (modeling first to identify how well cold spots would function before cutting trees); chloride free zones with appropriate signage; seasonal speed warnings; business analysis of private usage. Current actions include research of salinization of the state's surface waters; triennial water quality standards rulemaking to review potential chloride standard addition (public participation opportunities early in 2024); increasing accessibility of funding for salt storage through WQIP; initiating public awareness and coordinating with DOT.
 - Sarita Croce, NEIWPC: Coming from a municipal background, do you have training or docs to help municipal highway depts address concerns from residents after salt has been applied. Any guidance to help them answer questions?
 - Dr. Smith: The short answer is "not yet". Municipalities are on the front line and brought their perspective to the task force often. Don't have materials developed yet, have created recommendations and guidelines for what we should be doing, and are now transitioning toward implementation of the recommendations, including engaging on developing trainings, certifications, and outreach materials.
 - Julie Moore, VT ANR: State roads were presented as a source of corrosive levels of salt, but the target audience is the general public and independent contractors. This seems like a discrepancy. Is the state looking at a broader audience?
 - Dr. Smith: We feel the State DOT is well versed and taking major steps towards reducing road salt across the State, not just in Adirondacks. This includes installation of live edge plows on all trucks, GPS tracking and sophisticated technology to calibrate salt application to speed rates and routes. There also are various pilot studies they are engaged in to look at reduction in road salt application. In terms of outreach, this independent contractor and general public are additional areas we need to engage in. DOT is already engaged and have training programs for own staff.
 - Matt Vaughan, LCBP: We have lots of work going on 3 studies and an in-house manuscript with folks from LCBP and AWI showing a near doubling in

concentrations since 1990 for tributaries and the lake itself. Appreciate your acknowledgement to the standards supported in the literature about impacts to biota. Wondering if you can give teaser for the target range of concentrations or the trophic levels for benchmarks.

- Dr. Smith: I can't give you a number. One of the things we did recently in the assessment was look at some of the statistics around the concentration and frequency of a lot of different water chemistry parameters, chloride being one. We identified thresholds we felt where a change in aquatic communities begins to appear. When we meet those thresholds, we can then identify waters we need to look at or monitor into the future. We are looking at somewhere around 45 mg/L for chloride as an initial change in aquatic biota. Not to say that's where the water quality standard would end up. We'd take similar approach to nutrient guidance and look at how biological communities are reacting to the gradient of chloride, identify the change or inflection point associated with changes in the biota.
- Pierre Leduc, Quebec CAC/OBVBM: Did you look at substitutes for salt? Know in some ecologically sensitive parts on highways in Quebec they use abrasives instead of salt in specific road segments. What do you think the impact of climate change will be, more or less ice on our roads in winter?
 - Dr. Smith: In the report we did provide discussion on alternatives to salt. There is a large volume of literature on the impacts of different alternatives. Magnesium chloride, acetates, potassium formate, each of them has a different set of negative environmental impacts. Decisions will depend on what the application is and the proximity to specific sensitive environmental resources. Abrasives in certain areas can have the potential to really impact aquatic habitats especially in downstream surface waters. Regarding climate change, the salt usage seems to be in some ways increasing to an extent due to boundary temperatures between snow and ice and these thick icing events that keep happening.
 - Matt Vaughan: Two of the studies LCBP is funding hit those questions exactly. Downscaling climate models to assess how we can expect even with a warming climate more deicing materials may be used. Part of a bigger study at Middlebury College is to look at the toxicity of several deicing agents that include sodium chloride
- Mel Cote, EPA R1: Mel commented that OST is reviewing and may revise current sodium chloride criteria for road applications. May not want to go through full adoption process until that release.
- Steve Garceau, QC MELCCFP: Steve shared that the Ministry has been looking at road drainage, and where runoff tends to concentrate in certain areas that could affect fish habitat quality due to exposure to contaminants. Trying to identify ways to decrease runoff to sensitive areas.
- Megan Moir, City of Burlington: Do you know if the Green Snow Pro applies to municipalities? Or proximity to wastewater treatment plants for additives that may have increased BOD?

- Dr. Smith: NY DEC was focused on the private contractor application and certification of equipment and calibration of equipment for municipalities.
- Megan: when looking at alternatives, probably focused on aquatic biota if you add something with a lot of biological oxygen. For WWTPs, already having a hard time with organic loading, something to keep in mind. Part of that report may have talked about how fluxes of salt input impacts how well plants work that may be due to salt and temperature of water coming in that might be impacting the bugs.
- Dr. Smith: There is lots of research about lake turnover and impact to functional processes in aquatic habitats and lakes and those impact biological development. What happens to turnover and nutrient availability in the system, lots of complexity to be aware of. Jefferson project in Lake George have been doing lots of work on that. Talked about BOD a bit in report and their impacts. Some of the alternatives that are less corrosive could have greater impact to BOD.
- Sarita Croce, NEIWPC: Sarita shared that from what she can see on the website, looks like MS4 permit in NH requires maintenance of equip and outreach materials to ensure municipalities engage in reduced salt application.

June 2023 Missisquoi Bay Presentation follow up (Eric Howe, LCBP)

11:15AM

The Steering Committee reviewed and approved the summary from the [June 2023 Missisquoi Bay Public Meeting](#) and considered appending the meeting summary to the [June 2023 Lake Champlain Steering Committee meeting summary](#).

- Eric shared that this is largely a procedural agenda item, because he missed including this meeting summary with the June Steering Committee meeting summary when the Steering Committee approved the meeting summary in September. Eric thanked Pierre for bringing this to his attention.

ACTION ITEM: Approve Meeting summary from June 2023 Missisquoi Bay Public Meeting and append to the June 2023 Steering Committee meeting summary

- Motion By: Pierre
- Second by: Nathalie
- Discussion on the motion: none
- Vote: All
- Abstentions: None

Informational Presentation: The influence of the Schuyler family in the Champlain valley during the American Revolution.

11:30AM

(Dr. John Kreuger, Chair, LCBP/CVNHP Heritage Advisory Committee)

- John delivered a presentation about the history of the Schuyler and Montgomery families and their experiences and relevance throughout the revolutionary war. Of note, he shared it from the perspective of Catherine Schuyler, daughter Elizabeth “Eliza” Schuyler Hamilton, and Janet Livingston Montgomery ([link to presentation](#)).

- John's presentation described the roles of Philip and Catherine (van Rensselear) Schuyler and their important contributions to the Albany, Saratoga, and Lake Champlain regions during the mid-late 1700s. This included connections to the Battle of Valcour Island. John also explained the roles of Richard and Janet Livingston Montgomery. He also described the contributions of several of their 15 children, including Eliza Schuyler who married Alexander Hamilton, and the paths they crossed with Aaron Burr, and Eliza's life after the death of her husband, including raising funds for the construction of the Washington monument.

Lunch Break

12:00PM

**Informational Presentation: NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic
1:00PM**

Preservation Programs Report, Daniel MacKay, NYS OPRHP

- Daniel noted his excitement to participate in the meeting and expects that he will be able to attend the Lake Champlain Steering Committee meetings more frequently as a more constructive and informative participant.

Daniel shared remarks on several points related to the NY Parks work:

- The Finger Lakes region is now the fifth National Heritage Area in New York.
- NY Parks is focusing on a series of commemorative anniversaries, including
 - the 100-year anniversary of founding of the National Parks system,
 - the 100-year anniversary of the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825.
 - the 400th and 300th anniversary of the beginning and end, respectively, of enslavement in New York.
 - The 2024-2032 period will cover the first military actions in NY to the last military actions in NY and the social history.
 - Interpretation of these anniversaries will include how women and minorities were involved in the efforts. NY Parks is planning investments in training and development related to these focal points.
- Daniel described an effort to establish a National Marine Sanctuary within Lake Champlain. Daniel's expectation is that the proposed sanctuary will happen in 2024 and NY Parks will be the implementing authority for these programs while interacting with NOAA and their sanctuary managers.
- Daniel shared that the ownership of the Lois McClure has been transferred from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum to the NYS Canal Society. The Canal Society had developed an interpretation plan that would keep the vessel in the water at least through 2025 commemorative period.
- NY Parks Revolutionary War Commemorative Efforts (2024-2032). The NY State has established a Revolutionary War Commission, co-chaired between NY Parks and the NY Department of Education. Phil Giltner will be the NY Parks liaison for the Commission. This is a significant opportunity for funding. NY Parks is working closely with the American Battlefield Protection Program and critical sites of engagement with

Washington's troops and indigenous people in the region. Acquired additional land at Bennington battlefield. Where capital investments are not needed, they focus on land acquisition to expand.

- Interpretation: NY Parks is investing a significant amount of resources toward improving interpretation of sites and exhibits, including:
 - a new a kiosk and wayfinding system in the NY State Park system at welcome centers, parks, and rest stops in NY - a comprehensive portfolio for navigation of historic sites in NY. This includes the entirety of the portfolio of NY State Parks and historical sites. The system should be launched this summer.
 - New interpretation of the roles of women and minorities in the Revolutionary War era.
- Dan also share an update on NY Parks and partners work on the *Spitfire*: We now understand enough to protect the *Spitfire* and be stimulated and aspirational about it. The vessel sits in New York waters and it is regulated by the US Navy. The site and location are hidden from public record. There is the threat of AIS (quagga mussels) as well as fishing and diving technologies proving to be an involving and accelerated risk to the site. Daniel remains personally interested in the recovery efforts. Daniel personally feels that the opportunity to recover this vessel would be an internationally significant event, especially for NY and Plattsburgh. Valcour Island is in proximity of so many other resources so its conservation in Clinton County as well as an exhibition is a very real idea deserving of future discussions and evaluations. This endeavor will be extensive and costly, but not outweighing its benefits. NY Parks is interested in playing a role in the potential conservation, recovery, and interpretation of the vessel. Daniel would love to see a new historic site in Plattsburgh to do that, although this is aspirational at this time. Daniel encourages thinking and conversations about the opportunity, and noted that it will take a lot of different players politically to make this work. Daniel is committed to offering the services and resources of NY State Parks to continue this effort where appropriate.
- Eric Howe asked for more information about the maritime resources grant.
 - Daniel: This is a federal program that provides grant funding for interpretation initiatives and capital investment initiatives. However, grant allocations can be disproportionate, and there is more funding available for interpretive initiatives. Interpretive initiatives include survey work in the field, exhibit content. This opportunity is also being explored for *Spitfire* work. Also, the need for a stateside funding source has been made clear.

Review schedule for [FFY2024 budget process](#) (Eric Howe)

- Eric briefly reviewed the FY2024 budget schedule. The focus for the Committee today is to look at core projects that the Steering Committee supports annually, as well as the line items that are generally requested by NY DEC and VT ANR, and the proposed BIL-funded projects. We will then review the research Pre-proposals in Executive session.

FFY24 Core Projects

[Clean Water & Healthy Ecosystems](#) (Matt Vaughan, Meg Modley, Erin Vennie-Vollrath)

- Matt, Meg, and Erin reviewed the Core Projects that align with the Clean Water and Healthy Ecosystems goals (\$4.7 million):
 - Lake Champlain Long-Term Monitoring Program, including sensor array maintenance
 - Cyanobacteria monitoring
 - Clean Water grants (small, large, and planning)
 - NY Lake Champlain Basin agronomy support and BMP implementation
 - Lake Champlain Boat Launch Steward Program 2025 (US and Quebec)
 - Water Chestnut Management
 - Healthy Ecosystems grants (small and large)
 - AIS Spread Prevention grants
 - AIS Rapid Response fund
- Buzz asked for cost comparisons between the Fy24 and FY23 budgets for these projects. This information can be provided for the Steering Committee in April.
- Tom Berry, GLFC: Tom observed that some positions that have been stood up at NYS and VT DEC for a couple of years. He understands the value of the agronomist' work, but it's a bit out of character for the position to be integrated with other programs. Tom then asked if we support responses for milfoil in other inland lakes in NY or VT? Or is this unique in some sort of way?
 - Meg Modley, LCBP: It may not be unique, but it is a new detection that became a rapid response effort by Lake Eden Association bringing in somebody to do monitoring and removal.
 - Tom noted that milfoil management in the Basin is a slippery slope. He is concerned about involvement in one area could lead to diverting more management resources overall to this issue
 - Meg responded that these funds are specifically for rapid response to new infestations that have the possibility to control that introduction at a critical time.

[Thriving Communities & CVNHP](#) (Jim Brangan)

- Jim – Thanked the partners from the Historical Association and Helen Nerska for her kind words about the CCHA partnership with LCBP.
- Jim reviewed the Core Projects that align with the CVNHP goals (\$61,000)
 - The International Heritage Summit
 - CVNHP wayside exhibit program

- Champlain Adirondack Biosphere Network (CABN) coordination and continuing outreach for sustainability
- Tom Berry, GLFC: Thinking back relating back to the NY Parks presentation from Daniel MacKay about a marine sanctuary. Is there a similar set of resources and skillsets to help further the idea of a marine sanctuary within the CABN network of resources?
 - Jim: A grant was recently awarded to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum to look into a marine sanctuary for Lake Champlain. They learned that because Lake Champlain is not officially part of the Great Lakes system, the area could not be designated a marine sanctuary through the typical NOAA process. This would need to happen through an act of Congress through a legislative designation. Jim added that the US recently reentered into UNESCO – there may be opportunities to explore through this the UNESCO Biosphere program to augment this work.
- Neil Kamman, TAC- Would it be appropriate for the CABN Outreach for Sustainability item to be labeled as a line-item request instead of a core project?
 - Eric agreed, labeled this project as a line-item in the CVNHP budget.

Informed & Involved Public (Colleen Hickey)

- Colleen reviewed the Education and Outreach Core Projects that align with the Informed and Involved Public (\$1,325,000) and the Thriving Communities (\$900,000) goals of OFA.
 - E&O Grant Programs: Annual EO local grants, Professional Development, Boots-n-Bugs
 - Artist-in-Residence Program
 - Video Production
 - Streamwise - 2024
 - LakeWise Vermont
 - LakeWise New York
 - E&O Stewards

FFY24 Line Item Requests (VT DEC, NY DEC)

- Sarah Coleman and Erin Vennie-Vollrath described the State Line-Item funding requests for this budget:
 - MS4 Stormwater
 - NY Watershed Implementation Plan
 - Asset Management/ Planning for WWTFs
 - Organizational Capacity
 - Continuation of Flood Resilience (FFY22)/ Resiliency to Climate Change
 - AIS Personnel
- MS4 Stormwater: Julie and Sarah responded to questions about MS4 municipality support and contributions to this work. These funds would augment existing funds raised by stormwater utilities. Some of these funds would be administered through competitive grants. These programs have been augmented with ARPA dollars, formula grants, competitive grants and others. Unfortunately, the communities that need the capital assistance the most lack capacity to apply. These funds would flow through and

be managed by the State. This is essentially a block grant of funds to VT DEC to support this work. The State submits quarterly progress reports to LCBP. TAC is not involved in these types of projects – TAC is more focused on the research grant program now. VT ANR is working toward their own definition for DEI-eligible communities, to help prioritize funds for those communities.

- Continuation of flood resilience/resilience to climate change (NY/VT): Erin confirmed these would be implementation dollars, and responded to questions about ensuring that these dollars support water quality benefits as a first priority. NY DEC would run this RFP when it is issued, will consult with LCBP staff during development.
- Sarah shared that in VT these funds for flood resilience would support coordinated training for flood and climate resilience. In 2022 State of VT received some flood resilience funds, those funds will be going to communities to assist with resilience planning. Intended to use funds from FY22 to develop training and platform, this funding request is to make good on that need. Audience: municipal officials, zoning officials, general public. Content could also include toolkits for communities, increase public participation and facilitating flood resilience dialogue. The intent is to focus on the overlap between flood resilience and water quality and within that focusing on disadvantaged communities that need more technical support.
- MaryJo Feuerbach, EPA R1: MaryJo asked about the NY TMDL implementation item – it seems like this item is a parallel to the VT TMDL implementation funds that have been set aside for several years. The VT process has guidance for those funds that stresses dollars must support activities that have a fairly immediate impact on Lake Champlain and its restoration. Those projects then come before the Committee. If we are starting a separate TMDL implementation line item for NY, recommend a similar process for NY as well. Antony Tseng, EPA R2, supported this request.

FFY24 [BIL projects](#) (Eric Howe)

- Eric reviewed the funding to-date through the 5-year BIL program. Funds are allocated at \$8 million per year, for \$40 million total. EPA does hold back some funds for EPA staffing support and administrative costs. In FY22 First year of this program, the Steering Committee approved eligible uses for BIL funds to be projects that address ecosystem and wetland restoration, stormwater treatment and control, nature-based infrastructure, community resilience, resilient shorelines, and environmental education. Tasks that the Steering Committee has focused on include AOP, land acquisition, wetland/floodplain restoration in NY, tree nursery support, AIS management and prevention. The table in the documents for this agenda item illustrate what has approved to-date and what is proposed for FY24. In FY2022, the Committee approved two years of funding for the AOP restoration specialist position. This budget requests support for another two years for this position.
 - We are requesting another round of support for the tree nursery program, given the substantial demand that we received in the first competition. The shortage of stems for conservation planting are not going to go away soon.

ACTION ITEM: Conditional Approval of FY24 LCBP Core, Line Item, and BIL projects.

- Motion By: John Krueger
- Second by: Julie Moore
- Discussion on the motion: none
- Vote: All in favor
- Abstentions: none

***** 10 Minute Health Break *****

FY24 Clean Water and Healthy Ecosystems Research Pre-Proposal TAC Recommendation (Neil Kamman, Matt Vaughan)

The Committee moved into Executive Session to review confidential proposal materials.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion to move into Executive Session

- Motion By: Nathalie Provost
 - Second by: John Krueger
 - Discussion on the motion: none
 - Vote: all in favor
 - Abstentions: Pierre recused himself
-
- Exit Executive Session.

Open Session:

ACTION ITEM: Approval of FY24 Clean Water and Healthy Ecosystems Research Pre-Proposals to advance to Full Proposal stage.

- Motion By: Neil Kamman
- Second by: John Krueger
- Discussion on the motion: None
- Vote: All in favor
- Abstentions: Anne Jefferson

Pierre Leduc had left the room and did not participate in the vote.

Communities with Disadvantages Liaison [RFP Priorities](#) review (Mae Kate Campbell; LCBP)

- Mae Kate described the proposed program ([link here](#)). The Steering Committee requested more information on this program before issuance of the RFP. Mae Kate reviewed the concept of the RFP and the background work that informed the RFP, including a solicitation of information from partners to better understand engagement needs with communities with disadvantages, clarifying what the funds could be used for to support engagement, and refining the scoring criteria. Details of the presentation can be found in the link above.
- We would like to issue the RFP in January, pending Steering Committee approval.
- MaryJo requested that we ensure the work is connected to OFA priorities and protection of Lake Champlain in the evaluation criteria. This should be very clear in the

RFP. MaryJo also recommended that representatives for these communities are included in the RFP development, proposal review and scoring process. MaryJo also asked if there would be a way to score proposals for projects that would work with communities that meet multiple criteria vs just one criterion. This could help focus these resources on the communities that need the most assistance. Mae Kate responded that we expect to receive applications from the larger region and expect they will focus in on which criteria are going to be met. We will need to make sure the reviewers are able to see this and score proposals accordingly.

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ACTION ITEM: Approval to issue the Communities with Disadvantages Liaison RFP.

- Motion By: Anne Jefferson
- Second by: John Krueger
- Discussion on the motion: None
- Vote: All in favor
- Abstentions: None

Committee Member Updates

3:15PM

NYCAC

- Walt Lender, Chair - Katie did an excellent job providing overview of recent meetings. Have heard from partner organizations and doing our best to do outreach about LCBP activities and funding streams with our local municipalities and partner organizations.

VTCAC

- Katie Darr shared written updates, and highlighted the November meeting at the Lake Champlain Sailing Center, in which the Committee reviewed the new Action Plan and Matt Vaughan shared his flood presentation. Approximately 50 people attended, standing room only. This was the most successful CAC meeting since Katie joined the team in 2021. Folks also expressed interest in joining the committee.

QCCAC

- Pierre Leduc – Pierre noted that he must recuse himself occasionally for grant reviews. We think this is unacceptable, and that he should have to recuse himself all the time because OBVBM wishes to apply for grants from LCBP. There is a lot of demand from smaller organizations who want to apply for LCBP funds but they lack the capacity. OBVBM is considering offering a service to be used as applicant for smaller organizations to provide support for them, help them report, and fund the project due to reimbursement nature of grants. OBVBM has credit, insurance, and flexibility that the smaller organizations do not have. The way the awards are situated now, an applicant cannot for more than 1 in each category for most LCBP grant programs. If OBVBM becomes an umbrella for different organizations, OBVBM will likely have more than 1 application in each category. There is a limit to their ability to provide cash flow for multiple projects. Need to find faster ways to be paid for the work we do. This is an

issue with any small organization in NY and VT also. If this problem can be addressed, the Steering Committee would likely end up with more grant requests from Quebec.

Education & Outreach:

- Buzz Hoerr, Chair: Buzz deferred to the E&O Committee written updates.

HAPAC:

- John Krueger, Chair. John deferred to the HAPAC written updates.

TAC:

- Matt Vaughan, LCBP Chief Scientist: Matt reported that TAC met twice since September Steering Committee meeting, and has spent a lot of time reviewing workplans for FY23 funded projects. Matt noted that we talk a lot about the research program at the Steering Committee, and reminded the group that we also have a large implementation grant program for the Clean Water and Healthy Ecosystems goals. FY23 projects awarded by the Executive Committee this fall totaled \$4 million. In January, TAC will look at figures proposed for the 2024 SOL indicators report.

Additional Steering Committee member updates

- Sarita Croce, NEIWPCC: coming up on EPA lead and copper rule improvements. Sarita spoke with Pierre about the cash flow issue for smaller organizations. Sarita also spoke with Susan Sullivan, Executive Director of NEIWPCC, and we have to be careful of the risk associated with groups not being able to fulfill their deliverables if they were to receive funding up front. This is not something NEIWPCC will be able to move forward on. In terms of contracting, Pierre and I discussed a change in our contracting approach to move away from contracting every year for recurring projects. We will be looking to develop a multi-year contracting approach to support recurring projects to alleviate contracting paperwork. Also looking to put limits on contract extensions as we are finding that projects are not progressing as they should be. This will reduce the amount of extensions that we issue and keep contractors on track with their proposed timelines. Sarita then described a new mutual aid for water and wastewater industry initiative she is leading at NEIWPCC. One of the things that we learned from the VT floods is that we can probably use something similar to the collective efforts of electrical utility companies for wastewater facilities in the event of these storms. We are working to put together a new approach to help municipalities and wastewater companies come back online more quickly after these storms.
- Tom Berry, GLFC: We are working on the 2024 programs for Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog. The FY2024 bills written by the Senate and House look really good for the Program. Tom acknowledged and thanked the congressional parties on both sides of the Lake for their support in the appropriations process. Tom is hoping to develop additional partnerships in Quebec in 2024 with the GLFC. Tom is a member of an American Eel workgroup through the Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Cooperative, which is beginning to focus on American eel conservation. Andrew Milliken is retiring at

the end of the year. Recommending that the SC send some kind of message of appreciation for his service. Eric will work on something to send out to Andrew on behalf of the Steering Committee.

LCBP Updates

- Eric reviewed the work of the Executive Committee over the past number of months. Including awarding a little over \$4 million in grants since the end of October. There are several more categories that are closing now, with award decisions in January and February. Eric referred the Committee members to the LCBP written updates for more information.

Written updates submitted by Committee members may be viewed at [this link](#).

Joe adjourned the meeting and wished everyone a happy holidays.

Adjourn

3:30PM

Anticipated Outputs for this meeting include:

1. Approval of Meeting Summary from September 21, 2023 meeting
2. Approval of June Missisquoi Bay Public Meeting Summary and appending to the June 2023 Steering Committee meeting summary
3. Conditional Approval of FY24 Core, Line Item and BIL projects
4. Approval of Clean Water & Healthy Ecosystems Research Projects to advance to full proposal stage.
5. Approval of Community Liaison Request for Proposals to be issued.



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force: Report and Recommendations

Alexander Smith, PhD

Assistant Director, Division of Water

Lake Champlain Steering Committee Meeting - December 14, 2023

Outline

Road Salt

Adirondack (ADK) Road Salt Reduction Task Force

Website/Resources

Major Water Quality Findings

High Level Recommendations

Pilot Studies

Current Actions



Road Salt

We produce and use a lot of salt!

- NY ranks third nationally (16%) in production
- 193k tons applied annually in Adirondacks

Routine deicing application results in long term environmental impacts primarily due to:

- Chloride
- Stormwater/snowmelt runoff

Results in:

- Shifts in species composition (salt tolerant)
- Direct mortality
- Mobilization of trace metals
- Corrosion



Photo courtesy of: lovethethefinerlakes.com



Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force

Formed through the Randy Preston Road Salt Reduction Act of 2020

Charged with:

- Conducting a review of:
 - Road salt contamination
 - Deicing management practices
- Making recommendations to reduce salt usage



Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force

10 Governor Appointees

- Brittany Christenson
- Chris Navitsky
- Dr. Daniel Kelting
- Gerald Delaney
- Joe Martens
- Kevin J. Hajos
- Dr. Kristine Stepenuck
- Phillip Sexton
- Robert J. Kafin
- Tracy J. Eldridge

4 State Agencies

- Department of Environmental Conservation (Co-Chair)
- Department of Transportation (Co-Chair)
- Department of Health
- Adirondack Park Agency



Task Force Website and Resources

Website -

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/adk-salt-reduction-task-force>

Final Report -

https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/adirondackroadsaltreport.pdf

Technical Appendix -

https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/adirondackroadsaltappendix.pdf

Legislation –

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/S8663>





Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Department of
Transportation

Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force Assessment and Recommendations

2023

Basil Seggos, DEC Commissioner | Marie Therese Dominguez, DOT Commissioner



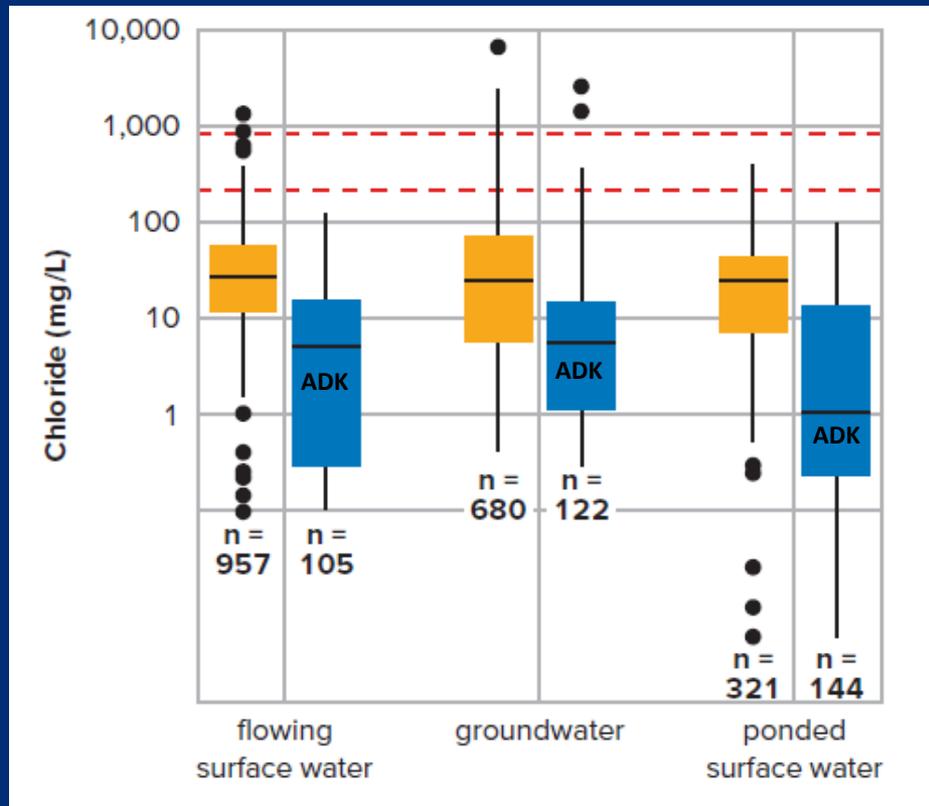
Major Report Components

- Executive Summary
- History of Snow and Ice Control in the Adirondack Park and New York State
- Sources and Impacts of Road Salt
- Best Management Practices to Reduce Road Salt Applications
- Funding
- Public Outreach, Education, and Transparency
- Recommendations for Road Salt Reduction Pilot Studies

Water Quality Findings

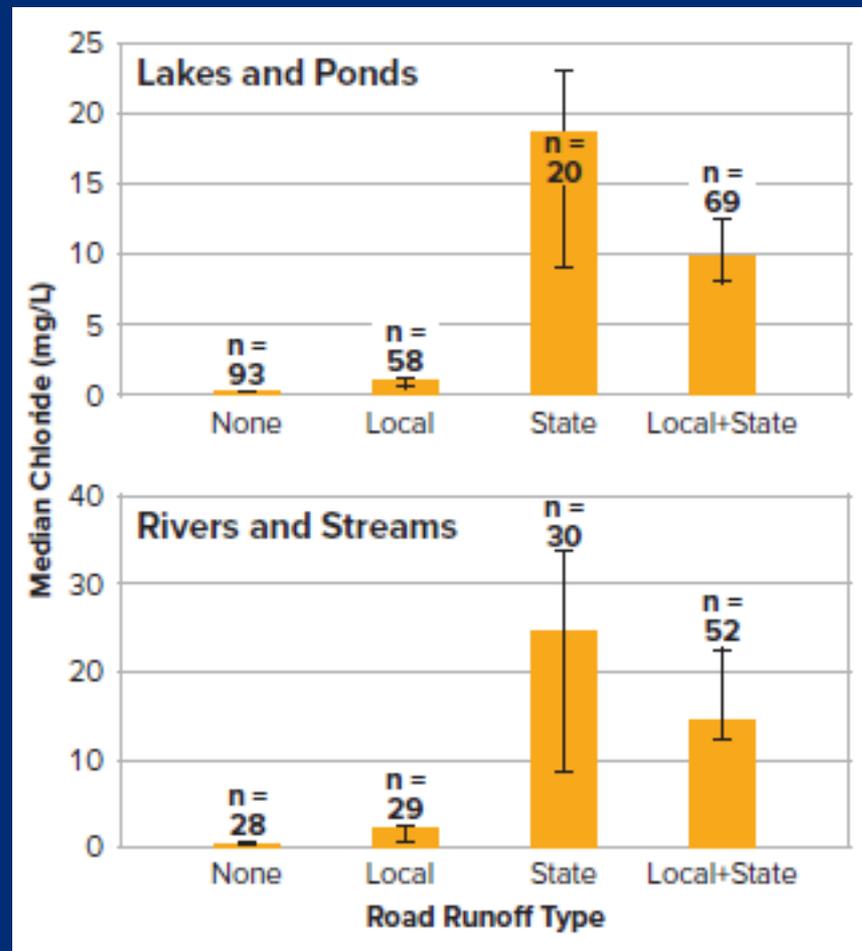
Most ADK water quality meets existing regulatory guidelines

Evolving science suggests existing guidelines may need to be revised..... and new ones established



Water Quality Findings

Water quality in ADK surface and groundwaters associated with the state road network, is being impacted by road salt



Water Quality Findings

Corrosivity of ADK well water may be related to road salt application and varies by proximity to different road networks

Road Runoff Type	Non-Corrosive	Corrosive	Highly Corrosive
None	203 (95%)	4 (2%)	6 (3%)
Local	102 (71%)	12 (8%)	29 (20%)
State	54 (32%)	11 (6%)	106 (62%)

Task Force Report Recommendations

Develop Road Salt Reduction Targets

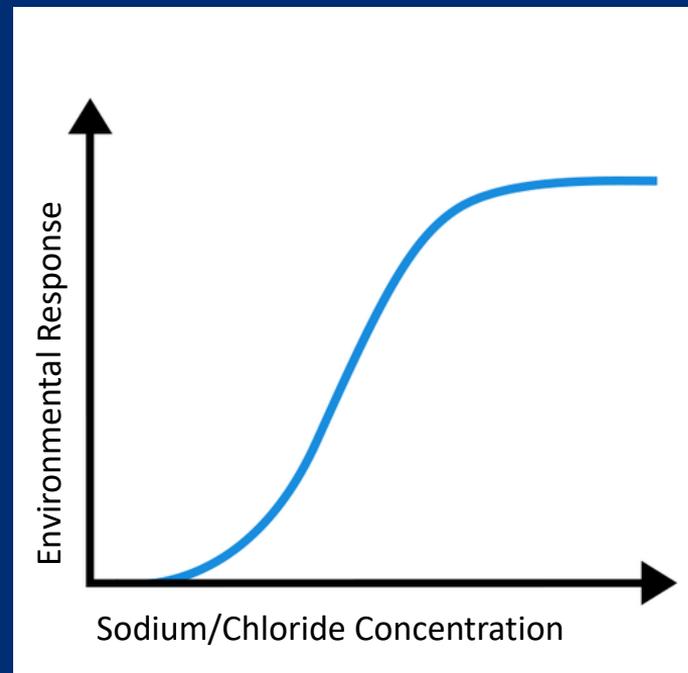
New water quality standards and environmental assessment and monitoring guidelines

Current Standards in NYS:

- Sodium (20 mg/L), Class GA, Health (Water Source)
- Chloride (250 mg/L), Class GA, A, A-S, AA, AA-S, Health (Water Source)

Current EPA Chloride Standards:

- Aquatic (acute) 860 mg/L
- Aquatic (chronic) 230 mg/L



Task Force Report Recommendations

Implement Best Management Practices

Snow and ice removal policies and practices that reduce the overall quantity and frequency of salt applications

- Measure
- Calibrate
- Prevent
- Analyze
- Improve/Optimize



Photo courtesy of: BidPrime.com



Photo courtesy of: fortmillier.com



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Task Force Report Recommendations

Establish Snow and Ice Removal Training

For snow and ice removal practitioners and stakeholders

- Creating a certification program for applicators
- Limits direct liability to applicators



For more information visit:

[Green SnowPro Certification](#) | [NH Department of Environmental Services](#)



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Task Force Report Recommendations

Funding

To support and achieve reduction strategies, best management practices, public outreach campaigns, and respond to contamination

- Create funding opportunities which incentivize use of BMPs
 - Equipment
 - Storage
 - Training
- Support winter road maintenance planning



Task Force Report Recommendations

Create Public Outreach and Education Campaigns

To educate audiences on the impacts of road salt and benefits of BMP strategies

Primary Target Audiences

- General Public
- Independent Contractors



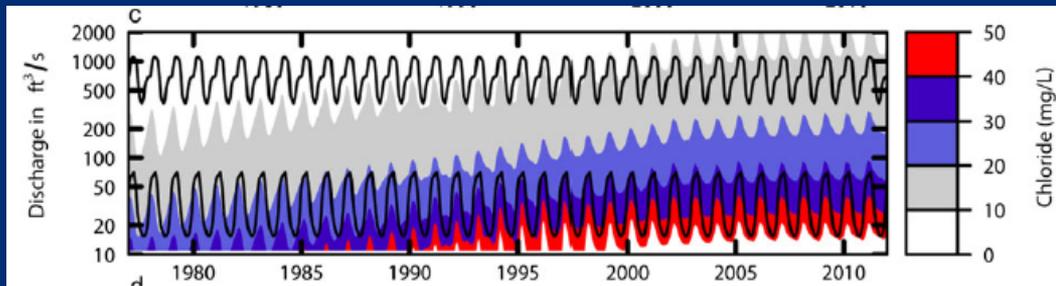
Recommended Salt Reduction Pilot Studies

- Selective Vegetation Cutting for Managing Cold Spots
- Chloride Free Zones
- Seasonal Speed Warnings
- Business Analysis of Private Usage

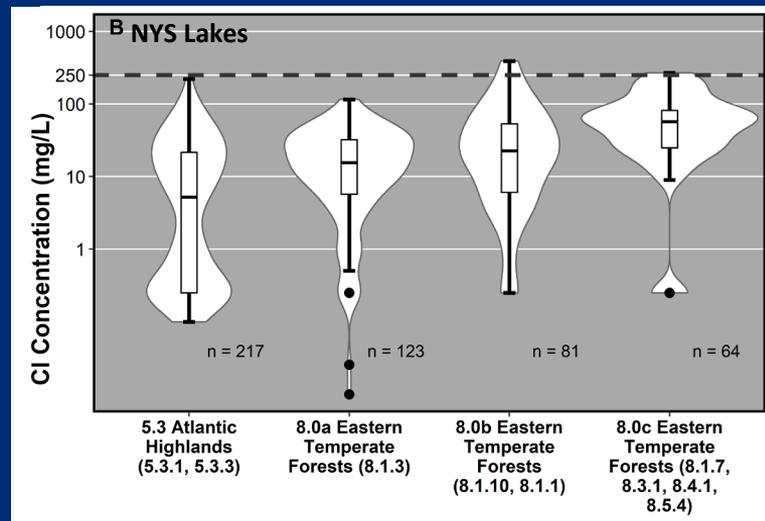
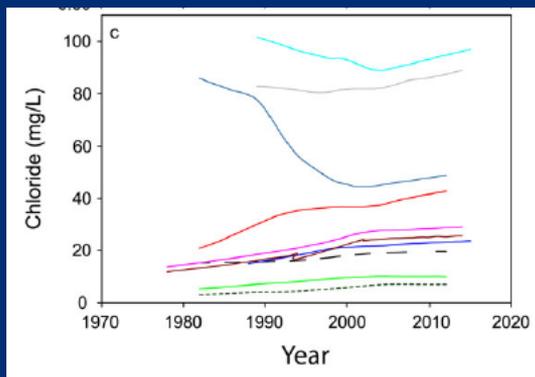


Current Actions

Research into salinization of surface waters statewide



<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/rra.3272>



Current Actions

Triennial Water Quality Standards Rule

- Reviewing potential chloride standard addition
- Public participation opportunities early in 2024



Current Actions

Making funding more accessible for salt storage

- Water Quality Improvement Projects Grant Program (WQIP)
 - Increased max award to \$600k
 - Decreased match required to 25%

WQIP Salt Storage Funding Summary Through 2022	
Funding Awarded	Number of Projects Funded
\$34,128,704	161



Current Actions

Initiating public awareness
and
coordinating with DOT



← ADIRONDACK ROAD SALT REPORT

The New York State Department of Transportation and DEC recently released a report with recommendations from the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force.

The Task Force was established in 2020 to review best management practices for road salt applications within

the Adirondack Park to reduce risks

to public health and the environment while maintaining public safety. The report contains recommendations for an Adirondack Park Road Salt Reduction Pilot Program and indicates the need to reduce road salt usage while still considering the safety of the traveling public. To view the full report, go to: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/128394.html.

Thank you!

Alexander J. Smith, PhD

Assistant Director, Division of Water

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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(518) 402-8287 | alexander.smith@dec.ny.gov

www.dec.ny.gov



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

LCBP Communities with Disadvantages Liaison Grant Program

Presentation for the Steering Committee

December 2023

Mae Kate Campbell, LCBP Associate Scientist

mkcampbell@lcbp.org

Overview of Program

- Provide funding to support organizations in engaging, developing, or continuing to build and strengthen relationships with communities with disadvantages to identify water quality, habitat conservation, or public access needs that align with the goals of *Opportunities for Action*
- Aligned with LCBP and EPA's Justice40 goals

Background

- Funding for the Communities with Disadvantages Liaison grant program approved in April – Steering Committee requested more information on the program before LCBP issues the RFP
- Updates:
 - Surveyed partners to better understand engagement needs with communities with disadvantages
 - Clarified what funds can be used for to support engagement
 - Refined scoring criteria that will be used in evaluation

Survey

- Sent to LCBP grants list (400 contacts), contacts who previously participated in LCBP communities with disadvantages public comment period, other LCBP groups (to share with their networks)
- Questions included:
 - What are your organization's needs in terms of supporting engagement with communities with disadvantages?
 - Describe any barriers your organization faces to engaging with audiences/communities with disadvantages.
- 22 responses received – watershed groups, conservation organizations, orgs. serving the needs of communities with disadvantages, academic institution, State agency reps.

Survey Themes

- The majority of responses listed assistance with **understanding the needs of disadvantaged communities**, support for **staff time for building relationships** with those groups, and assistance with **identifying and communicating with disadvantaged community groups** in their focus area as primary needs
- **Funding** and **time** are the primary barrier to completing this work, and there is very little to no funding for this type of work available from other sources
- Feedback on the need for **more flexible deliverables** to allow projects to evolve as connections are made

Use of Funds

- Clarified that participant support costs are eligible for funding
 - Advertising funds to reach communities
 - Translation services (if applicable)
 - Stipends for community meeting or focus group participation
 - Transportation costs for community members attending grant-related meetings/events
 - Childcare costs to support participation
 - Meeting space rentals
- These uses are in-line with survey responses on needs

RFP Scoring

- 1. Impact (30 points):** The extent to which the proposed project will result in strengthened connections between watershed stewardship organizations and communities with disadvantages per LCBP's definition to identify, elevate, communicate, and address the watershed-related needs and concerns of identified groups.
- 2. Outreach and Engagement Plan (30 points):** The strength and feasibility of the proposed plan for engaging with audiences or communities with disadvantages that align with the LCBP's definition, and the extent to which the plan will result in meaningful engagement with identified groups.
- 3. Evaluation of Project Performance (10 points):** The strength of the proposed plan for tracking and evaluating project performance.
- 4. Collaboration (20 points):** Demonstrated ability and prior experience with convening partners, the general public, or collaborating with diverse groups, disadvantaged audiences, or communities with disadvantages.
- 5. Long-Term Plan (20 points):** The extent to which project outputs will help facilitate ongoing relationships with identified communities, or the extent to which project outputs will identify future work that can be undertaken to improve on concerns voiced by identified communities.
- 6. Budget (10 points):** Appropriateness and efficiency of proposed funding request for the scope and objectives of the project.

Next Steps

- LCBP will issue RFP in January 2024
- RFP will be open for longer than typical LCBP RFPs, responses due in March
- Steering Committee will review and approve recommended projects for funding in April



ELIZA AND JANET: THE OLDEST REVOLUTIONARY WAR WIDOWS



**A THREAD OF HISTORY FOR
THE
LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK
DECEMBER 14, 2023**



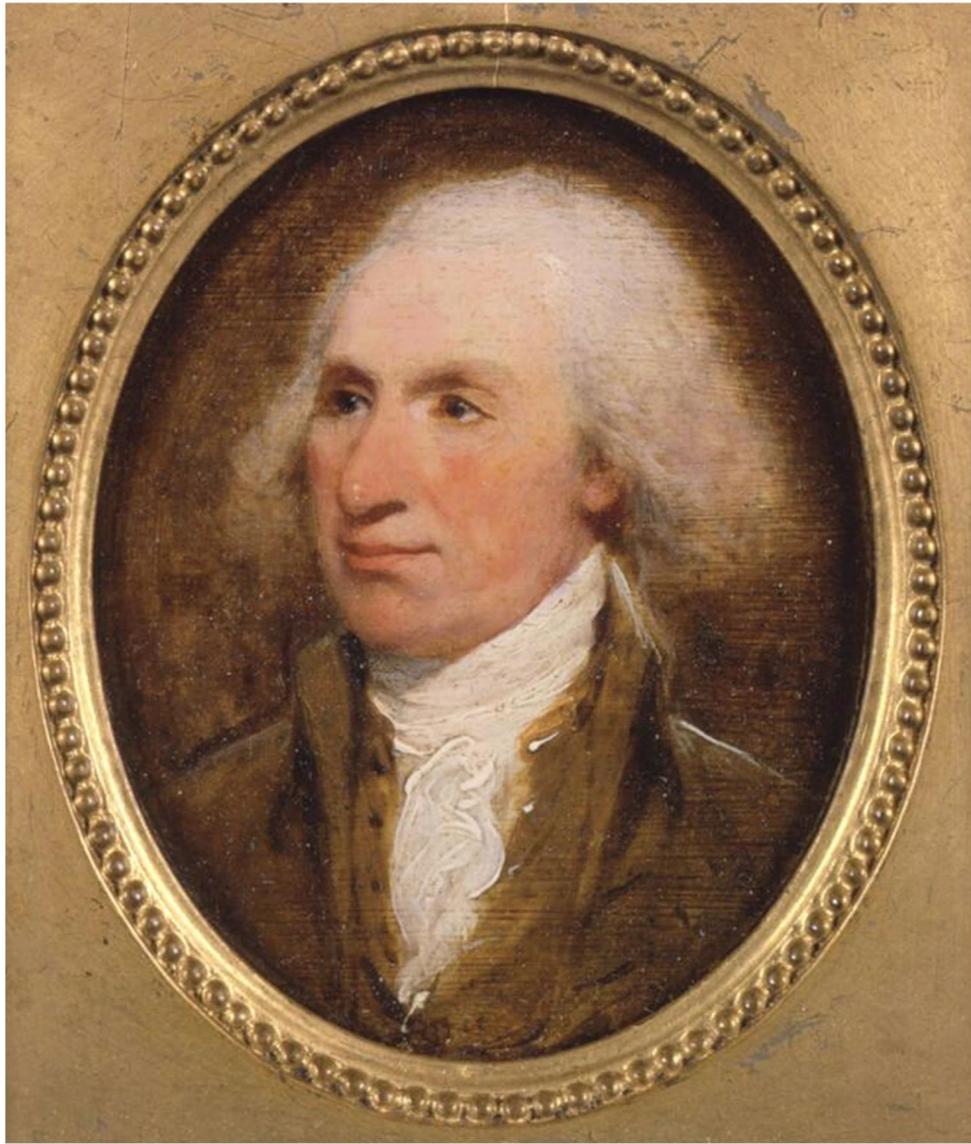
Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton

“Eliza”

1757-1854

Ralph Earl 1787

Museum of the City of New York



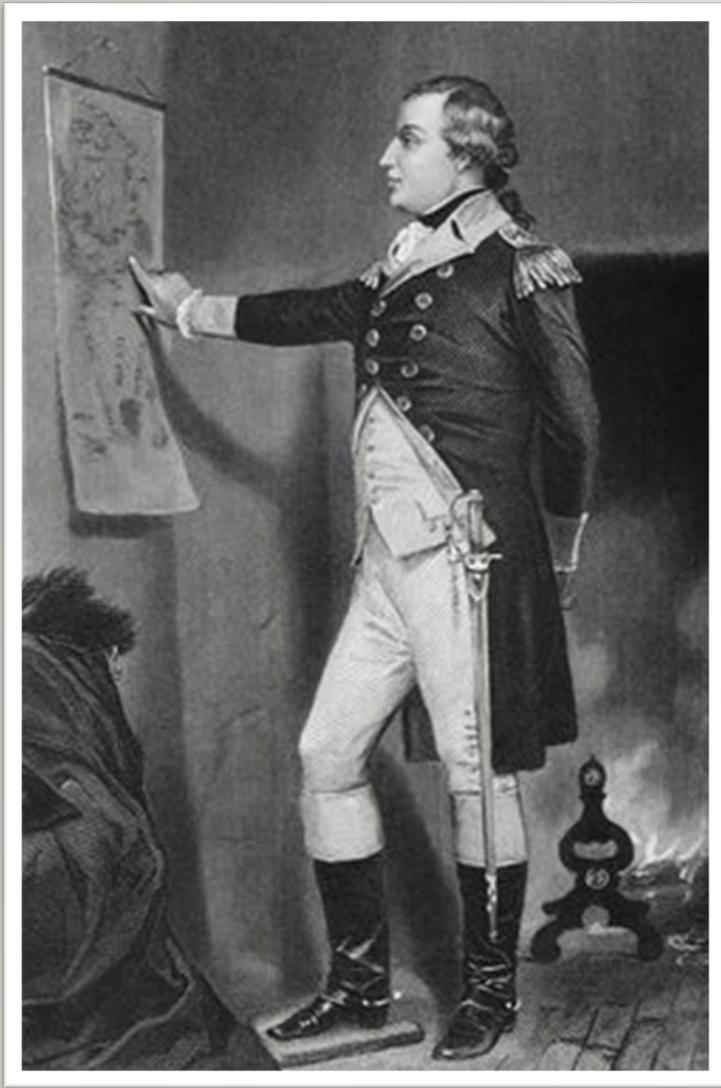
Philip Schuyler
1733-1804

John Trumbull 1792
Collection of The New-York
Historical Society

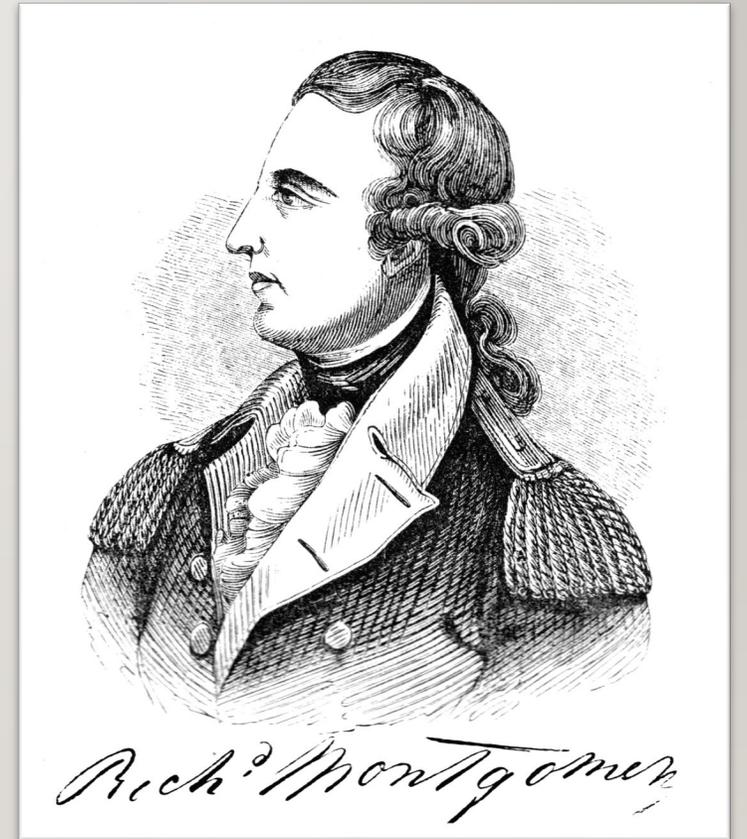


**Catherine Van
Rensselaer
Schuyler
"Kitty"
1734-1803**

**Thomas McIlworth 1762-1767
Collection of The New-York
Historical Society**

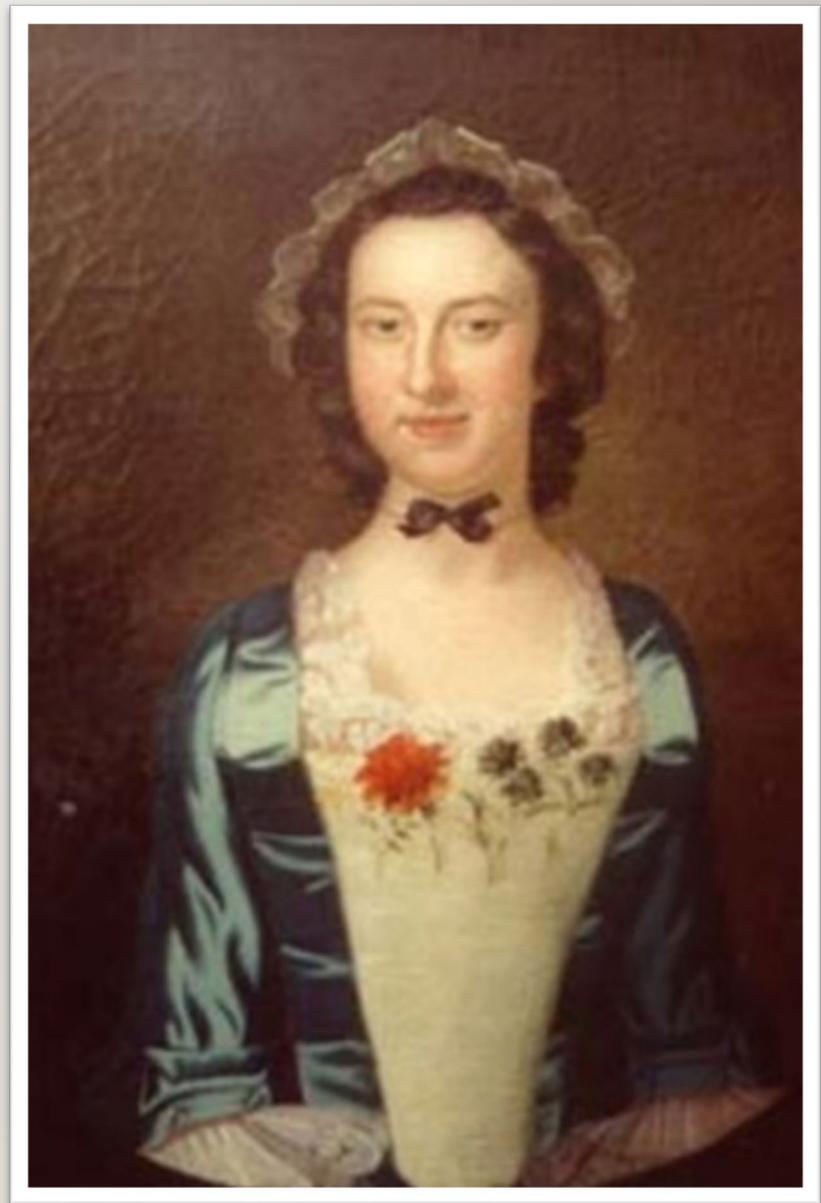


**Richard
Montgomery**
1738-1775



**Janet Livingston
Montgomery
1743-1828**

Artist and date unknown





The Death of
General
Montgomery

John Trumbull 1786
Yale University Art Gallery

Aaron Burr

1756-1836

Gilbert Stuart circa 1792
Collection of
The New Jersey Historical Society



The Battle of Valcour Island

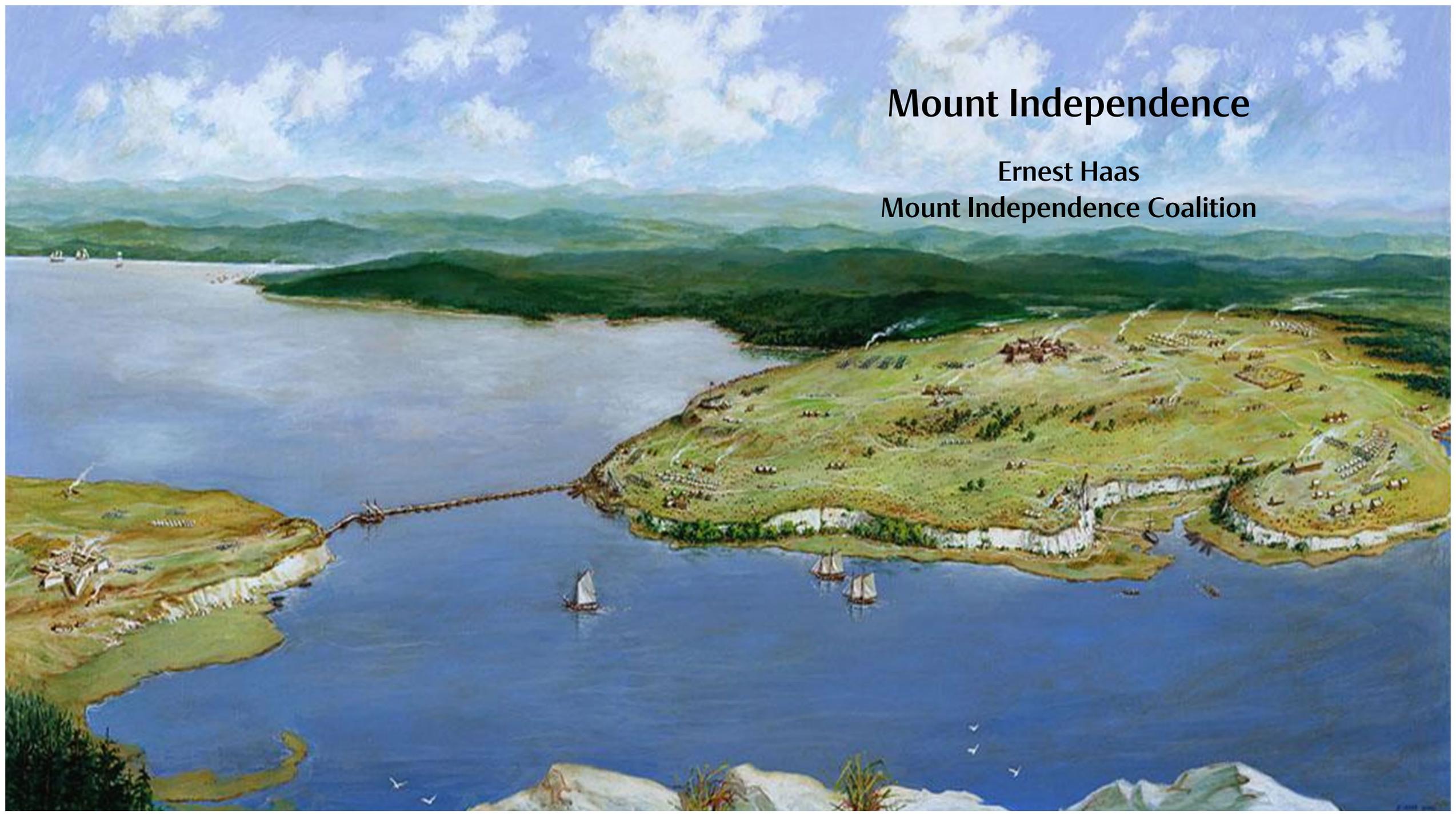
Henry Gilder
Royal Collection Trust



Mount Independence

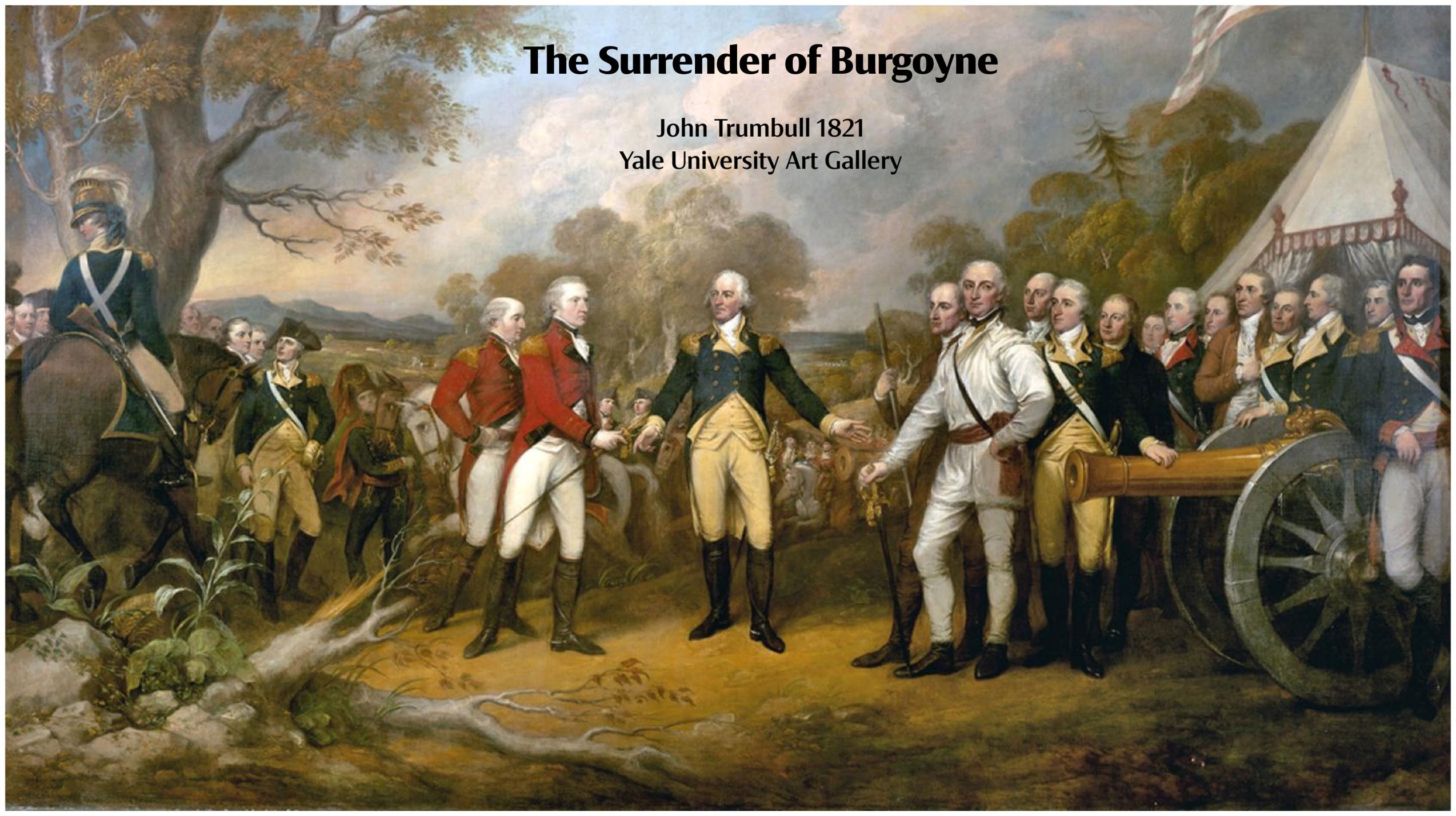
Ernest Haas

Mount Independence Coalition



The Surrender of Burgoyne

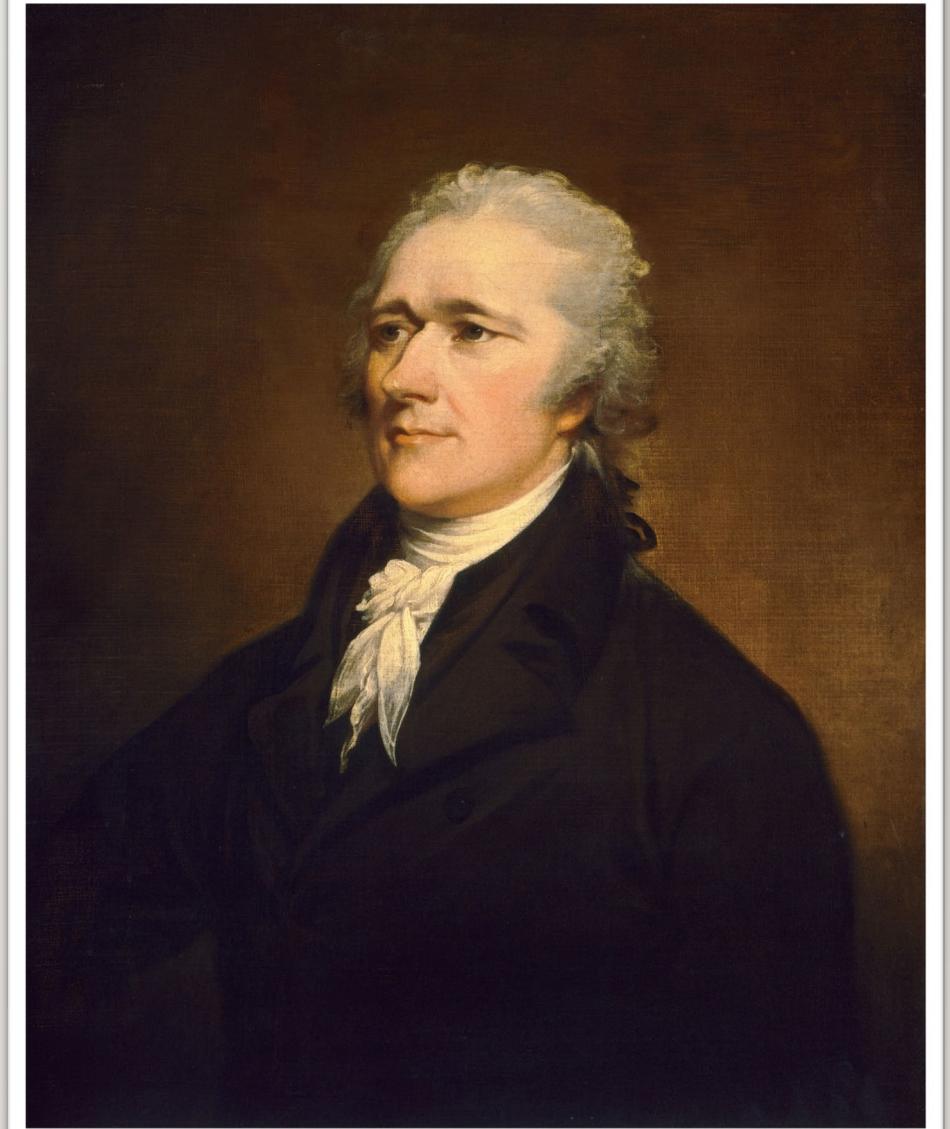
John Trumbull 1821
Yale University Art Gallery



Alexander Hamilton
1755-1804

John Trumbull 1806
Museum of Fine Arts – Boston
right

John Trumbull 1792
Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York
left



The Schuyler Mansion



Albany, NY
built between 1761 and 1768

**Aaron Burr, Alexander
Hamilton and Philip
Schuyler strolling on Wall
Street, New York 1790**





Kitty Schuyler

Kitty in her early 60s
Walter Robinson, circa 1795
Smithsonian American Art Museum

The Burr-
Hamilton Duel
July 11, 1804



DUEL BETWEEN BURR AND HAMILTON.

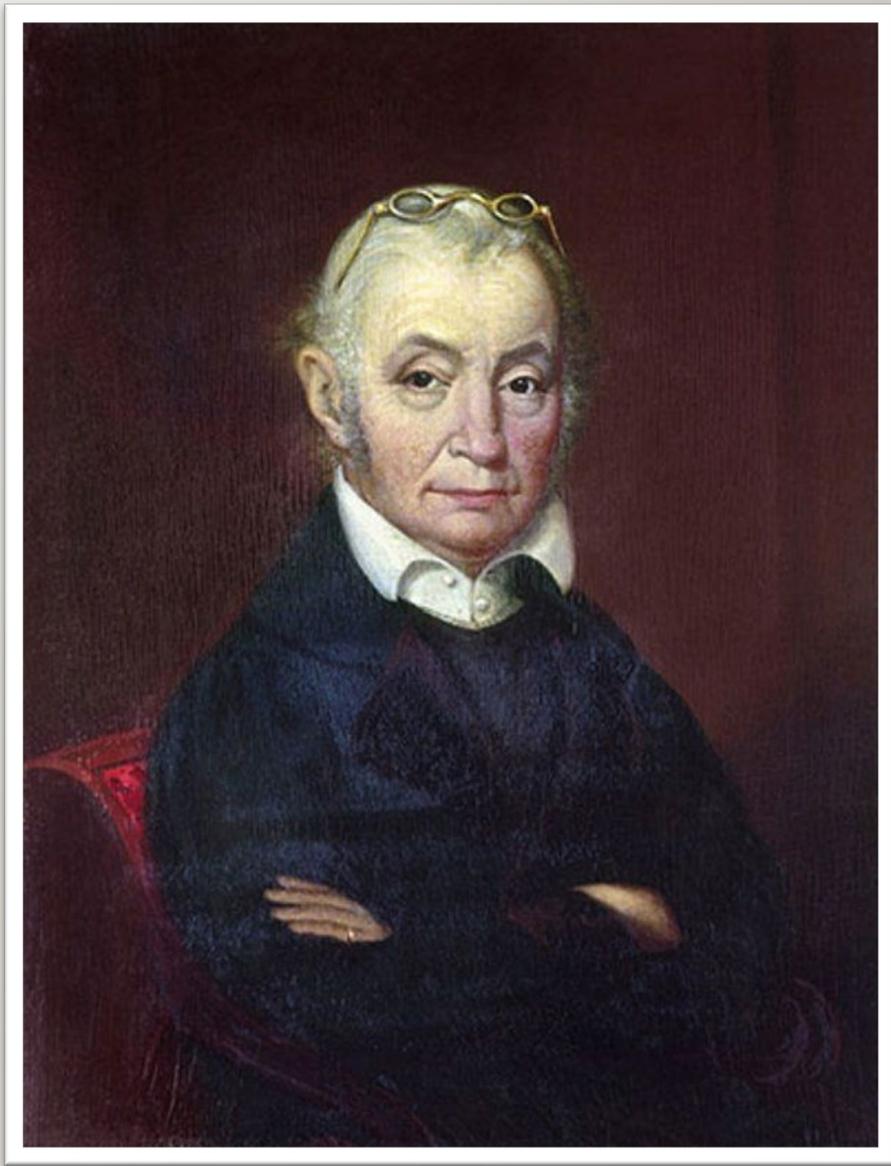


Janet Montgomery

Janet in her 70s
Drawing by her niece Cora Livingston
Bard College
Montgomery Place Collection

Aaron Burr

Burr at 78
James Van Dyck 1834
Collection of the New-York
Historical Society



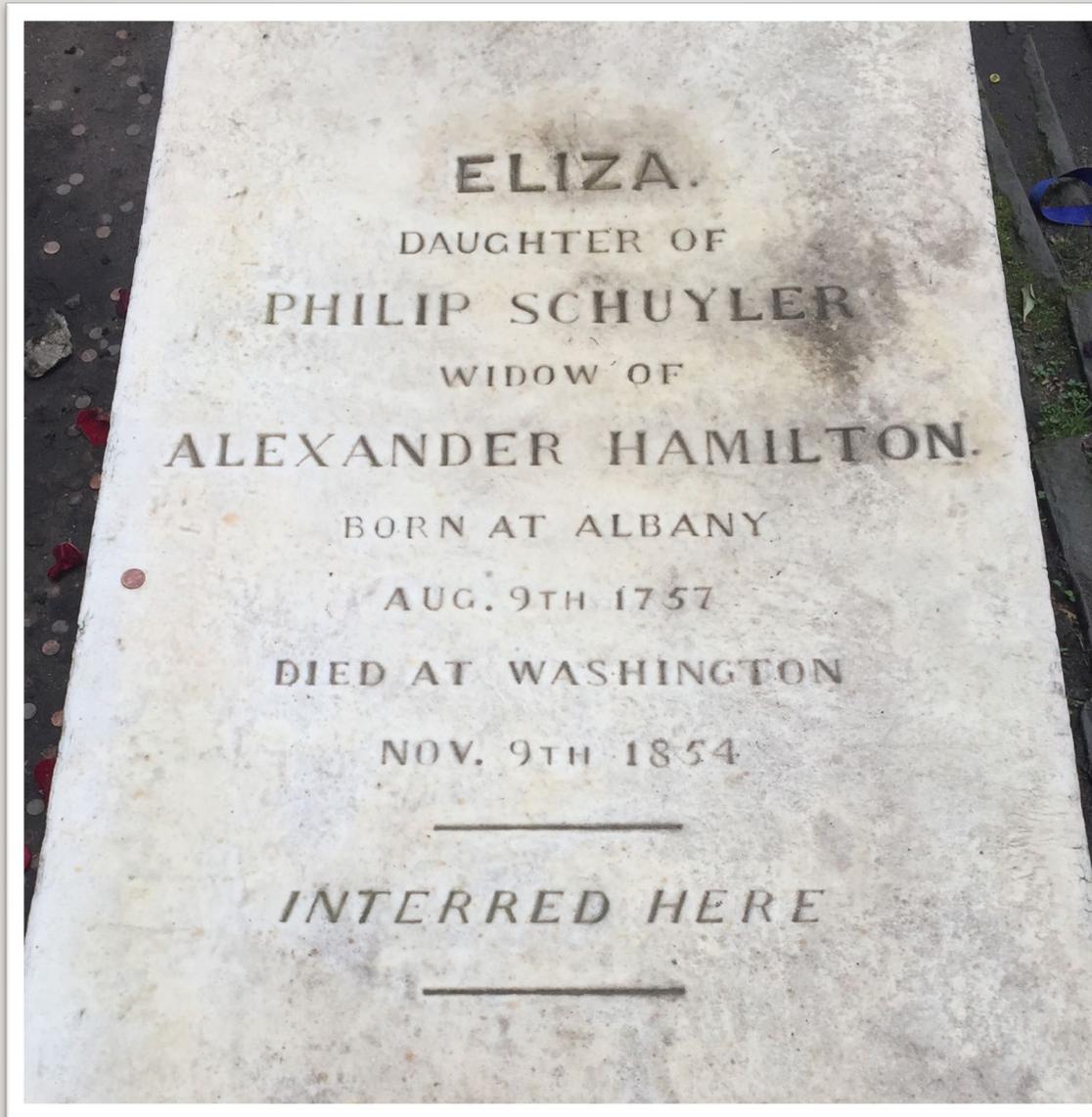


Eliza Hamilton

Eliza at 94

Attributed to John D. Martin, 1851

Museum of the City of New York



Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin Program

Written Updates

Lake Champlain Steering Committee meeting, December 14, 2023

- **FY23 Budget Tasks.** All FY23 Agreements are now in place to begin supported tasks. These agreements support the budget decisions made by the Lake Champlain Steering Committee in April 2023.
- **Grant Awards:** The Executive Committee awarded 46 grants totaling nearly \$4.1 million during the October and November meetings. Most of these projects should be under contract to begin work by April 2024. There are four remaining RFPs open now that will be closing in the next few weeks. The Executive Committee will consider additional grant awards for these categories in January and February 2024.

Grant Category	Grants Awarded	Funding Awarded
Clean Water – Interstate Clean Water Accounting	1	\$100,000
Clean Water – Large Implementation	8	\$1,315,340
Clean Water – Small Implementation	5	\$169,320
Clean Water – Planning	5	\$348,164
Healthy Ecosystems – Large Implementation	5	\$546,916
Healthy Ecosystems – Small Implementation	1	\$25,489
Healthy Ecosystems – Aquatic Organism Passage	7	\$1,252,975
Healthy Ecosystems – AIS Spread Prevention	14	\$333,540
Thriving Communities – Organizational Support	TBD January 2024	
Thriving Communities – Workforce Development and Organizational Support in New York	TBD January 2024	
Informed and Involved Public – Small Implementation	TBD January 2024	
Informed and Involved Public – Stream Wise	TBD January 2024	

- **LCBP Executive Committee updates: This group has met twice since the September Steering Committee meeting.**
 - **Chair transitions:** The Chair role for the LCBP Executive has transitioned from EPA Region 1 to Vermont ANR. Pete LaFlamme will be serving in this role on behalf of Julie Moore. Thank you to MaryJo Feuerbach at EPA Region 1 for Chairing this Committee for the past 2 years!

- **Grant Award Decisions:** See Table above.
- **June 2023: Missisquoi Bay Public Meeting summary:** In November, the Committee reviewed the meeting summary and approach to hosting this as a Steering Committee meeting in June 2023. The group agreed to submit this meeting summary to the Steering Committee for approval and to append the meeting summary to the June 2023 Steering Committee meeting summary. There will be more discussion around how to best host the meeting as a public meeting and Lake Champlain Steering Committee meeting when the next report is due in 2025.
- **LCBP Artist-in-Residence Program update:** Jim Brangan provided an overview of the Artist-in-Residence grants that have been awarded to-date. Please contact Jim for more information.
- **LCBP Communities with Disadvantages.** LCBP is preparing to issue a Request for Proposals for the Communities with Disadvantages Liaison Grant program the Steering Conditionally approved in April 2023. The Steering Committee will review the priorities for this RFP during today's meeting and the LCBP will issue the RFP in early January. The goal for this grant program is to create an opportunity for typical LCBP partners to engage with communities within their geographic working areas, build trust with these communities, and to then advance projects within the LCBP grant programs that benefit those communities in the context of OFA. The funding will provide support for liaison programs over 2-3 years.
- **State of the Lake 2024 Report.** Staff are working to update the 2021 Lake Champlain State of the Lake and Ecosystem Indicators report. Staff have identified figures to be updated, removed, or added to the relevant sections of the Report and have reached out to partners for data to inform the updated figures. We are working to have a draft report available for the Executive Committee to review in March and for the Steering Committee to approve in April. The release date is set for June 6, 2024. Location to be determined. Hardcopies will be available by that date and the web-version of the report will be translated into French, as has been customary for the past several issues of this report.

LCBP Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Initiative Updates for the Steering Committee December 14, 2023

Healthy Ecosystems (HE) Competitive Grants

The competitive AOP grants program supports partners' AOP restoration work across the LCB.

- The 2023 [Clean Water and Healthy Ecosystems Planning and Implementation Projects](#) RFP was released on August 18 and closed on October 12. It included the second year of an AOP-specific grant category and, this year, also included additional questions aimed to better assess each project's contribution to AOP.
- At their October 24, 2023 meeting, the LC Executive Committee recommended that \$1,252,975 of FY23 AOP BIL funding support seven AOP projects:
 - *\$43,000 - Town of Crown Point, Penfield Dam Removal Feasibility Study (NY)*
 - *\$249,986 - Ausable River Association, Moss Road Bridge Replacement Project – North Branch Boquet River (NY)*
 - *\$116,987 - Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District, Trout Brook Reservoir Dam Removal Final Design (VT)*
 - *\$250,000 - Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District, Restoring Access to Upstream Habitat on Stannard Brook (VT)*
 - *\$233,002 - Friends of the Winooski River, Designs for Removal of Three Barriers to Aquatic Organism Passage in the Winooski River Watershed (VT)*
 - *\$250,000 - Vermont Natural Resources Council, Dam Removal Implementation - 3 Dams Across 3 Watersheds (VT)*
 - *\$110,000 - Lamoille County Conservation District, Joe Brook Culvert Replacement (VT).*
This funding will be added to existing contract for the same project.
- At their November 16, 2023 meeting, the LC Executive Committee recommended that \$68,000 of FY23 AOP BIL funding support an additional AOP project that was submitted to Clean Water Planning category:
 - *\$68,000 - Ausable River Association, Aquatic Organism Passage Project Prioritization in the Ausable Basin*

AOP Projects Constructed

- In summer 2024, 6 LCBP-funded AOP projects were implemented including:
 1. Culvert replacement in Fayston, VT by Friends of the Winooski River
 2. Culvert replacement in Stannard, VT by Caledonia County NRCD
 3. Dam removal and bridge replacement in Dorset, VT by Poultney-Mettowee NRCD
 4. Connolly Pond Dam removal in Shrewsbury, VT by Vermont Natural Resources Council
 5. Fredenburgh Falls dam remnant removal in Plattsburgh, NY by Trout Unlimited
 6. Indian Rapids dam removal in Plattsburgh, NY by Trout Unlimited
- LCBP staff are preparing an E-news article that summarizes the 2024 season's AOP projects

AOP Implementation Fund & AOP Committee

LCBP staff has been working on defining a process for identifying and prioritizing AOP projects in NY and VT for the Implementation Fund 2023. Projects will be recommended to AOP committee in late winter.

AOP Capacity across the Lake Champlain Basin

- LCBP staff hosted a meeting on November 2 with partners across NY's Lake Champlain Basin and Adirondacks to facilitate the prioritization of AOP projects in preparation for various future funding opportunities. Next meeting scheduled for January.
- LCBP staff hosted a meeting on November 3 with partners interested and/or involved in AOP work in NY's Boquet Watershed to facilitate collaboration and communication for project development and implementation in this important watershed. Next meeting scheduled for December.
- LCBP staff has been leading conversations in both states with AOP partners to consider barriers to AOP restoration and opportunities for addressing the barriers.

Lake Champlain Federal Partners Workgroup

Update for 12/14/2023 Steering Committee Meeting

This workgroup meets quarterly at the convenience of the members to review the status of their activities in the Lake Champlain Basin, to assess the future work that each agency may be conducting in the Basin, to coordinate with the LCBP budget process, and to identify opportunities for cooperative and/or collaborative work to implement priority actions in Opportunities for Action.

Federal Partners Webpage: <https://www.lcbp.org/about-us/people/partners/federal-partners/>

Workgroup members unanimously approved Antony Tseng (EPA R2) to be Chair and Anne Jefferson (Lake Champlain Sea Grant) to be Vice-Chair of the workgroup during their June 2023 meeting.

Lake Champlain Federal Partners MOU

The Lake Champlain Federal Partners have updated their formal agreement to work collaboratively on Lake Champlain-related issues and share resources when possible. Link to MOU: [Final - Lake Champlain Federal Partners Workgroup MEMORANDUM-OF-UNDERSTANDING-2023.pdf](#)

On-Going Workgroup Projects:

1. Lake Champlain Environmental Sensitivity Index Mapping
 - The Lake Champlain Steering Committee approved funding for this project during their April 2022 meeting. EPA R2 and USGS executed a formal contract agreement for the work which started in January 2023.
2. Climate Change Initiative
 - The workgroup, led by Antony Tseng, is discussing how they can collaborate to address environmental justice and climate change adaptation, resilience, and mitigation in response to President Biden's [Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#). Workgroup members have been continuously updating a [LCBP Fed Partners Climate Change Activity Notebook](#) with relevant agency information.
3. Housing issues/options for seasonal and temporary staff
 - The workgroup began discussions about how to address the housing issue at their April 2023 meeting.

List of Recent Partner Presentations:

Topic	Presenter	Date
Lake Champlain ESI Mapping Project Update, CABN Climate Change Atlas Update	Ben Fisher, Dan Cronan	December 2023
USACE/Champlain Canal/Round goby Update, Lake Champlain Sea Grant DEIJ Logic Model and Outreach Metrics, Lake Champlain TMDL Progress	Meg Modley/USACE, Anne Jefferson, Bryan Dore	September 2023
USACE/Champlain Canal/Round goby Update, CABN Climate Change Atlas Update, Lake Champlain ESI Mapping Project Update	Meg Modley/USACE, Emanuel Carter, Ben Fisher	April 2023
USGS Lake Champlain Science Team	Joe Ayotte	December 2022
New Cooperative Institute for Research to Operability in Hydrology (CIROH)	Breck Bowden	September 2022

USFS's Cold Hollow to Canada Project	Karl Honkonen	April 2022
Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network (CABN) Climate Change Atlas	Jim Brangan, Kelly Cerialo, Emanuel Carter	November 2021
Resilient Right-of-Ways: A collaborative and integrated approach to advance trees, forests, and other green stormwater infrastructure practices in roadside environments	Karl Honkonen	September 2021
Update on the creation of the new Vermont Water Quality Councils	Neil Kamman	April 2021
The inundation frequency and phosphorus retention capacity of floodplains: Development of a framework to support Lake Champlain Basin planning	Rebecca Diehl	December 2020
CVNHP 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act	Jim Brangan	September 2020
Overview of the Vermont Agricultural Water Quality Partnership	Alli Lewis	June 2020
Oil spill emergency response planning for Lake Champlain	Jason Scott	April 2020
Ongoing USGS projects within the Lake Champlain Basin	Ben Rau	April 2020
Current Intervale Center Programs and Initiatives	Mandy Fisher	December 2019
Preview of the "CEAP Watershed Project"	Vicky Drew	September 2019

New York Citizens Advisory Committee (NYCAC) on Lake Champlain Management

Update for 12/14/2023 Steering Committee Meeting

Since the last Steering Committee meeting, the NYCAC has met three times. The next meeting will be held on January 22nd via Zoom. The agenda will feature an update on the Lake Champlain Source Water Protection Plan.

- **September 25th** – The committee reviewed the 2021 State of the Lake report and provided feedback to inform the 2024 report. The committee discussed community engagement strategies including a joint LCBP/NYCAC Love the Lake program in New York and regular partner spotlights on the CAC agenda.
- **October 23rd** – The agenda featured a presentation about ADK Action's Clean Water Safe Roads work by Sawyer Bailey (Executive Director) and Hannah Grall (Project Coordinator), approval of the committee member manual, member updates, and discussion of updates to the NYCAC outreach materials. The Clean Water Safe Roads program has been a success and is expanding across the greater Adirondack region. On October 3rd, ADK Action launched a new public outreach campaign, visit adkaction.org/salt to learn more.
- **December 4th** – The agenda featured three presentations and a review of the NYCAC's work in 2023. Scott Ireland, Executive Director of Adirondack Lakes Alliance (ALA), provided an overview of ALA and the need for new board members. Corrie Miller, LCBP Aquatic Restoration Passage Specialist, provided an overview of why AOP matters, the work underway to restore it, and how the public can engage in AOP work. Mark Klotz, USGS Hydrologist, provided an update on the status of the USGS streamgauge network in the NY Lake Champlain Basin. The streamgauge network provides data for flood mapping and forecasting, but the basin is not fully gauged which hinders development of vital public safety resources. One of the biggest challenges in supporting a streamgauge is the ongoing operation and maintenance costs.

Past approved **meeting summaries and materials** are posted at lcbp.org/nycac

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

Update for 12/14/2023 Steering Committee Meeting

The VTCAC has met three times since the last Steering Committee meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for January 8th via Zoom.

- **October 9th** – The agenda featured a 2024 Action Plan discussion. The approved action plan is included below.
- **November 13th** – The VTCAC hosted its first Action Plan rollout meeting at the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center. Denise Smith, Chair, and Karina Dailey, Vice-Chair, presented the 2024 Action Plan priorities including the need for investment in natural and developed infrastructure for resilience, equitable public access and recreation, aquatic invasive species spread prevention, sustainable agriculture, water quality enforcement, and water quality monitoring and mitigation for contaminant pollution. Dr. Matthew Vaughan, LCBP's Chief Scientist, also presented preliminary analyses from the July 2023 storm. Over 50 people were in attendance including legislators, watershed partners, and members of the public. Several attendees expressed interest in joining the committee.



- **December 11th** – The agenda featured a debrief of the November 13th meeting, a presentation about the Lake Champlain Public Awareness and Engagement Survey by Ryan Mitchell (LCBP Communications and Publications Coordinator), and a discussion about new member interest and next steps. Prospective members are asked to submit a letter of interest and resume by the end of February for committee review in March.

Past approved **meeting summaries, recordings, and materials** are posted at <https://www.lcbp.org/about-us/committees/citizen-advisory-committees/vermont-cac/>

2024 | Lake Champlain Action Plan

Achieving a Thriving Lake Champlain Basin Ecosystem

Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee on Lake Champlain's Future

The confluence of climate change impacts, contaminants pollution, and the under-resourcing of critical programs poses a serious threat to water quality, public health, and community and environmental resilience in the Lake Champlain Watershed. The severe flooding this past summer reinforced the critical role of resilient ecosystems and infrastructure for Vermont's economy, agriculture, community well-being, and climate disaster prevention.

The Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) calls on the State of Vermont to make urgent investments to restore Lake Champlain, increase resilience within its watershed, and ensure that its communities will thrive.

INVEST IN NATURAL AND DEVELOPED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RESILIENCE

Climate change is causing more variable precipitation and severe flooding, posing risks to public safety, infrastructure, property, and water quality. Restoration and protection of Lake Champlain's headwaters, river corridors, floodplains, wetlands, and riparian buffers are cost-effective resilience strategies that also help to achieve clean water and ecological health co-benefits. Failing wastewater facilities and septic systems threaten water quality and public health. To counter these threats, the State needs to improve failing municipal systems and provide more proactive education, oversight, and outreach to homeowners about their septic systems.

PRIORITIES

- Invest in infrastructure, programs, and practices that **BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE** impacts and restore ecological function.
- Increase and improve **EQUITABLE PUBLIC ACCESS** with priority for non-motorized recreation on Lake Champlain and on waters throughout the Lake Champlain Basin.
- Provide **SUPPORT AND RESOURCES TO FARMERS** to facilitate the agricultural transition to sustainability and ensure consistent regulatory enforcement, including review of the 2017 MOU between ANR and VAAF.
- Fund **ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION OF CONTAMINANTS POLLUTION** including pesticides and chlorides.
- Invest in **AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES** education and management.

The CAC encourages the State to *explore an emergency response loan fund as a means to help cover costs related to wastewater failures and fully support funding of the State Revolving Loan program.*

The CAC endorses *expanded capacity of the Vermont Rivers Program and organizations working to implement river restoration and protection.* In addition, the State *must prioritize investments that support adaptive, resilient, and compact settlement and help Vermont communities,* particularly those vulnerable to climate-related severe weather events.

Lake Champlain Action Plan 2024

INVEST IN AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES SPREAD PREVENTION

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are a significant threat to Lake Champlain and the state's waterways. AIS have the potential to compromise aquatic ecosystem integrity and cause billions of dollars in damage to recreation, water quality, infrastructure, and property values. To mitigate and prevent further AIS damage, Vermont must increase investment in staffing and funding for its AIS programs. The State should consider: *a new funding source involving a mandatory boat decal for motorized and non-motorized craft; a mandatory watercraft inspection and certification program; a high-profile inspection station; and a live bait ban similar to Quebec.*

JULY 2023 FLOOD IMPACTS

In the seven-day period following the storm:

- **more than 200 billion gallons** of water was delivered to Lake Champlain
- the amount of phosphorus delivered to Lake Champlain was likely **more than half of the combined annual Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)** for phosphorus
- **33** municipal wastewater systems were impacted, including devastation of Johnson and Hardwick's facilities, and **18** community water systems were on boil water or do not drink notice

EXPAND EQUITABLE PUBLIC ACCESS & RECREATION

Access to Vermont's healthy lands and clean waters are crucial to the health and wellbeing of Vermonters and to the State's \$1.5 billion outdoor recreation economy. Vermont needs to allocate resources to expand shoreline and water access for all. Expanding access and outdoor education opportunities will foster greater experiences with and stewardship of the State's natural resources. The CAC particularly recommends strategies to *improve access in the South Lake and for marginalized and historically disenfranchised communities. Continued investments in outdoor recreation businesses* will bolster public access opportunities and Vermont's recreation economy.

SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND CONSISTENT REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT

State leadership is needed to encourage Vermont agriculture to be sustainable-- with an emphasis on significant reductions of nonpoint source water pollution. Vermont must *accelerate its diversification of value-added agricultural products* to protect its farmers, farm economy, and environment. The Legislature must *support farms through investments in specialized equipment, full funding of programs offered to the agricultural community, enhanced infrastructure for local distribution of agricultural products, and resources* to small farms that enable effective implementation of best practices. Technical and educational support is needed to help farmers leverage available funding opportunities. To support farmers and protect water quality, Vermont needs to *ensure the enforcement of required agricultural practices and clean water laws is consistent and efficient.* The State must *revisit the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding* between the Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture Farm and Markets to update expectations, clarify responsibilities, improve communication and establish accountability metrics between agencies to restore the agricultural community's and the public's trust.

DEVELOP SOLUTIONS FOR CONTAMINANTS POLLUTION

Chemical contaminants in the environment pose health risks to the public. Eliminating toxic contamination is essential to protect health and avoid long-term environmental damage. Vermont must continue to *monitor, assess and mitigate the risk of chemical contamination in our surface and groundwater especially pesticides and chlorides.*



VTCAC Members

Denise Smith Chair, Population Health Director
Karina Dailey Vice-Chair, Environmental Scientist
Eric Clifford Dairy Farmer
Wayne Elliott Engineer
Robert Fischer Water Facility Operator
Lori Fisher Nonprofit Executive Director
Mark Naud Attorney/Business Owner

Hilary Solomon Conservation District Manager
Vacant Public at large
Vacant Public at large
Representative Kari Dolan
Representative Carol Ode
Senator Christopher Bray
Senator Randy Brock



**Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (VT ANR) Update
Lake Champlain Basin Program Steering Committee Meeting
December 14th, 2023**

State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 Budget Outcomes

State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 Clean Water Budget process:

The Clean Water Board posted its draft State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 Clean Water Budget for public comment October 20-November 20, 2023. The Clean Water Board met December 5, 2023 to review public comment and finalize its State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 Clean Water Budget recommendation. The Board's recommended budget is incorporated into the Governor's budget address in January 2024 and is subject to legislative review/authorization. Once authorized, funds will be available beginning July 2024, at the start of SFY 2025. A few new activities proposed in the SFY 2025 Clean Water Budget include:

- One-time funds to support clean water project repairs following the Summer 2023 floods;
- One-time funds to support Municipal Road General Permit road erosion inventory reassessments; and
- One-time funds to support implementation of alum treatment in Lake Carmi, pending results of feasibility study and permitting.

The proposed FY25 Clean Water Budget recommends nearly \$40m in state Clean Water Fund revenue and Capital Bill allocations, and provides funding to help municipalities, farmers, and others implement projects that will restore, enhance, and protect Vermont's water quality, including addressing priority sources of nutrient and sediment pollution. Visit the Clean Water Board webpage for more information: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/board/>.

Clean Water Funding Programs

DEC Awarded 2024-2029 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Grant! Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) staff received notification from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service that DEC has been awarded a \$10.7 million RCPP grant. This will provide approximately \$6 million in funding for agricultural and forestry best management practices, \$2 million for agricultural, forestry, river corridor, and wetland easements, and over \$2 million in technical assistance. The application included partnerships with Audubon VT, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, and the VT Housing and Conservation Board. In addition to measuring nutrient pollution reductions, the grant will fund a social outcomes evaluation of the decision-making process landowners undergo in committing to permanent easements. The social outcomes evaluation will help develop future incentive programs and landowner outreach. The grant will require a performance agreement to be in place by May 2024 prior to a 2024 landowner application period.

Clean Water Workforce Capacity Grant Update: DEC is in the process of finalizing the grant agreement with the selected Funding Program Administrator. DEC is also proceeding with an amendment to the award to increase its initial value from \$400,000 to \$1,000,000. This includes \$100,000 from FFY22 LCBP funding and \$300,000 from FFY23 LCBP funding. DEC expects the amendment to be finalized early in the new year. More information can be found on the [CWIP Grants landing page](#) under the "CWIP's Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development Initiative" header.

Clean water workforce/organization capacity continues to be a high priority for the State of Vermont and its partners. Investing in this capacity is critical to meeting the state's water quality goals and maximizing outcomes of increased state and federal funds. ANR-DEC is also working to coordinate with other organizations offering



AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

capacity funds, including the Lake Champlain Basin Program, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

Green Schools Initiative Phase 2 Launch October 12th:

- The Green Schools Initiative provides funding and technical assistance to support public schools in obtaining and complying with the Three-Acre General Permit. Phase 1 of the initiative, under contract with Greenprint Partners, is well underway and supports schools in completing engineering designs and obtaining permit coverage. Phase 2 of the initiative, recently contracted with Greenprint Partners, is in the process of launching and will support schools in constructing stormwater treatment practices to comply with the permit.
- October 12th Phase 2 launch webinar: Greenprint Partners hosted a webinar for schools on October 12th to launch the construction phase of the initiative and present information about the overall program. The main audience was school administrators. After the webinar, schools have about a month to complete their applications/enrollment for Phase 2 funding so that Greenprint Partners can select a subset of schools for construction in 2024 and initiate the procurement process in early winter 2024.

Anticipated Launch of Three-Acre Permit Obtainment Assistance Program: VTDEC is in the process of launching a Three-Acre Permit Obtainment Assistance Program with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funding. The program will provide beneficiary payments to three-acre landowners to assist in covering engineering and administrative costs associated with three-acre permit obtainment/authorization. The program is planned to be fully launched and publicized in January 2024. Visit the ARPA Three-Acre Program webpage for more information: <http://anr.vermont.gov/special-topics/arpa-vermont/treating-stormwater-runoff>.

2023-2025 EPA Technical Assistance for Nonpoint Source Program Support: The Watershed Planning Program was successful in a proposal for securing EPA NPS technical assistance to develop a statewide Strategic Woody Addition planning tool. Planner Keith Fritschie drafted and submitted a proposal to use the technical assistance funding to develop a simple, interactive, statewide web map that highlights stream segments that are more likely to support strategic wood addition projects with flood resilience, clean water, and aquatic habitat co-benefits while minimizing potential conflict with downstream infrastructure and complex landownership.

Update to State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 Funding Policy: The Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) updated its Funding Policy in September and posted online at: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants>. The focused edits reduce the leverage requirement associated with the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Community Formula Grant program from 50% to 20%. These edits were proposed through conversations with the WID Division Director after hearing strong feedback from the MS4 communities that the existing 50% leverage requirement would limit/slow spending under this American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-funding initiative. The 20% leverage requirement is consistent with Vermont Agency of Transportation's (VTrans) match requirement for its funding programs that support municipal stormwater/road projects.

Regulatory Program Updates

Multi-Sector General Permit Reissuance: The Stormwater Program is reissuing the multi-sector general permit for discharges associated with industrial activities. The draft permit will go on public notice sometime in early 2024.

Other Updates

DRAFT Winooski Tactical Basin Plan public comment period closed: The final draft Winooski Tactical Basin Plan was recently posted for the 30-day public comment period which closed on November 10th. A responsiveness summary is being prepared for the 75+ comments that were received during this period in preparation for final ANR Leadership Review in anticipation of the final approved plan by the end of the 2023 calendar year. This is



AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

another important milestone that comports with the Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL Accountability Framework. The final draft plan is available for review on the [Winooski TBP Planning Page](#).

Vermont Wetland Mapping: The DEC Wetlands Program is improving the knowledge of wetland location and function through maps. National Wetlands Inventory mapping will be updated for the entire state by 2026. An analysis of the updates and prediction of wetland function and value will be completed for the entire state by 2027. A media firm is creating outreach materials to improve the public's awareness of the maps for use starting next summer (2024). A portion of the Lamoille basin wetland mapping will be completed and available to the public in early 2024. The mapping includes the following sub-watersheds: Brewster River-Lamoille River, Gihon River, North Branch Lamoille River, and Seymour River-Lamoille River.

Wetland Restoration: The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife (VDFW) is preparing to close on an approximate 255-acre addition to the Little Otter Creek Wildlife Management Area in Ferrisburgh. This former farm parcel spans both sides of the Lewis Creek, less than a mile from Lake Champlain; approximately 45 acres will be restored to wetlands. To date, approximately 75% of the land acquired under this initiative is restorable to wetlands. VDFW is scoping two additional projects that are in the appraisal phase, which will likely create an additional approximate 180 acres of restored wetlands on drained agricultural fields.

VDFW is finalizing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to contract wetland restoration planning and implementation services. Vendors will be selected over the 2023–2024 winter months, with restoration projects beginning in the 2024 construction season. To date, 355 acres have been restored to wetlands via active and passive restoration. Projects slated for work in the RFP, as well as additional passive restoration sites, will add approximately 700 acres of wetlands to the basin in coming years.

Communication and Outreach

2024 Clean Water Conversation Series: The new 2024 Clean Water Conversation Series will launch in the coming months. Visit the webpage to access recordings of past talks and for the schedule of, and to register for, upcoming talks as they are posted: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/outreach/lecture-series>.

Flood Impacts and Flood Recovery

Ag Flood Recovery Task Force:

- The Task Force met on October 4th and partners provided updates on emergency flood recovery programs. Farmers have expressed strong interest in all programs, including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service \$4 million of emergency funding, the Agency of Agriculture (AAFM) Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program (BEGAP) and the USDA Farm Service Agency emergency funds. UVM Extension shared that some corn being chopped this fall is testing positive for mycotoxins which may make that feed unable to be fed to animals. AAFM has developed an online "feed directory" where farmers with feed for sale can share information.
- The Ag Flood Recovery Task Force leadership (Nicole Dubuque from AAFM and Roy Beckford from UVM) decided to create three subgroups to work more deeply on key issues. The groups are:
 - Regulatory Recovery team – Identify priorities/goals and gaps related to supporting farmer's ability to maintain or defer regulatory compliance during and following a natural disaster.
 - Farmer Empowerment Team – Identify priorities/goals and gaps related to supporting economic recovery, training, and resilience during and following a natural disaster.
 - Government Systems Team – Identify priorities/goals and gaps related to current and potential government programs available for the agriculture sector to recover from natural disasters.

Each group met and reported back to the full task force the following week. Key insights and recommendations are being compiled into a draft report to be released in mid-December.



AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Updates from VAAFAM:

Toxicologist: The Agency of Agriculture is in the process of hiring a toxicologist. This position will assist with environmental and animal impacts from various contaminants such as pesticides, PFAS, and metals as examples. This is the first ever position like this at the Agency, and we are excited for this opportunity to provide additional services to the public.

Grazing Specialist: the WQ division recently hired a grazing specialist. For decades (or maybe longer!) the Agency hasn't had staff to directly support with grazing in the field. This position is possible through the LCBP and the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative program at NRCS. The Agency's pasture surface water fence program has been oversubscribed annually, and with additional ARPA funding available for implementation and now a staff to assist, the program can really get out there and support farms to improve existing grazing operations and create new ones!

CWIP: The Clean Water Investment Program has \$7.5 million available to support agricultural water quality efforts in Vermont. Applications are open until December 20th and multi-year applications are encouraged. These grants typically support the agricultural water quality partnership efforts by providing direct programming and technical support to the agricultural community.

AIB: Agricultural Innovation Board has been working on neonicotinoid use and bee health over the last year. UVM Extension is also hosting a webinar series, that will include the AIB findings, starting December 12. <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/nwcrops/conferences-events-current-and-past>

E&O Committee Report to the Steering Committee

December 14, 2023

- **E & O Committee Meeting:** The E&O Committee met on October 20th to provide feedback on the *State of the Lake* report ahead of the 2024 June release, and to establish draft task recommendations for the E&O portion of the next LCBP budget.
- **Grace Palmer:** The LCBP welcomed Grace in November as Communications and Publications Associate. Grace supports communications efforts by helping to maintain LCBP websites and develop content for our print and digital channels.
- **Interpretive Outreach:** Elizabeth continues our interpretive wayside exhibit program working with Jim and community partners. She recently finished (2) sets of the Champlain Canal Bicentennial traveling exhibit for the CVNHP which will be on exhibit during the winter months at Champlain Centre in Plattsburgh, NY. A new CVNHP Orientation Guide will be available in early 2024.
- **Love the Lake:** The LCBP *Love the Lake* Series was on the move again this fall. Matt Vaughan presented a sunset talk about Lake Champlain's health at the ECHO terrace on September 28th. Madeline Reilly, our outreach steward is now aligning the February-March *Love the Lake* series at the Grand Isle office.
- **Teacher training:** The Champlain Basin Education Initiative (CBEI) is actively recruiting participants for our Watershed for Every Classroom course. Vince Franke from Peregrine Production developed video shorts for our winter recruitment process. This ten-month course begins July 2024. Ryan and Elizabeth have also initiated the process to update the CBEI website.
- **Reaching fall audiences:** LCBP staff engaged with about 400 people during the Adirondack Harvest Festival (thanks Sue), completed watershed model programming for more than 225 students in St Albans Bay during their Lake

Lessons* training over a two week period with students from five schools in September, exhibited *State of the Lake* and other materials during the annual Stormwater Tradeshow* in Lake George which was supported through and E&O grant. We continued to partner with libraries, Rotary Clubs, watershed groups, farmers markets, and LCBP boat launch stewards to feature LCBP work. More than 9,000 guests visited the Resource Room for the three-month period ending September 30th. In October and November, the Resource Room team also provided programming to numerous school groups on-site.

- **STREAM WISE:** Lauren and the Streamwise team trained 23 people as Stream Wise Assessors. Ten local partner organizations (including 9 grant recipients and one volunteer organization) combined with the two pilot year programs last year yielded 87 on-site assessments resulting in 48 landowner awards given. Check out some of the photos including landowner award recipients here: <https://streamwisechamplain.org/>
- **Casin' the Basin e-news:** The edition published in October was the first to use an updated design and template. The next edition will be published in December. Stay tuned!
- **SUNY Upward Bound:** Stephanie accompanied a group of SUNY Upward Bound students on hike up Coon Mountain in Westport, NY on October 28th. Stephanie assists in planning these special events which help first time college applicants meet environmental colleagues and learn watershed issues and recreational opportunities. LC Sea Grant is also a partner.



- **Meet the Scientist:** Vermont Public hosted three broadcasts which featured five Meet the Scientists videos. Ryan continues to work with Peregrine Productions to reach new audiences through this video series. A new series of interviews is currently underway.
- **World Water Day Celebration March 16th:** Sue Hagar is organizing the World Water Day event at Champlain Centre in Plattsburgh, NY for the second year which will feature about 20 water related organizations and this year's CBEI local celebration of student classroom work.
- **E&O Grant reviews:** We are initiating grant reviews this week. If you have any suggestions for grant review participants, please be in touch with Colleen at chickey@lcbp.org

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EPA Updates
Lake Champlain Steering Committee
December 14, 2023
Plattsburgh, NY

Lake Champlain and the FY2024 Budget

The US Federal Government is currently operating under a laddered Continuing Resolution with funding provided for the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023; the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023; the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023; and the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023 through January 19, 2024; and the remaining programs through February 2, 2024. The Lake Champlain geographic program has been proposed to be level-funded at \$25 million in President Biden's budget proposal.

Lake Champlain Program Guidance

EPA continues to draft programmatic guidance for the Lake Champlain geographic program and plans to begin internal reviews in early 2024. The purpose of this document is to transmit EPA guidance on annual workplans, reporting requirements, and major assistance agreement policies to the program, including a shared understanding of program management and responsibilities which require a high level of coordination and timely communication. EPA plans to continue to share updates and progress through the winter and spring of 2024.

Buy America Build America Terms and Conditions

The EPA Office of Grants and Debarment (OGD) has updated Term and Condition #48 Build America, Buy America – Required Use of American Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, and Construction Materials in the [Fiscal Year 2024 EPA General Terms and Conditions](#). This update is effective October 23, 2023 and incorporates the Office of Management and Budget's updated guidance to federal agencies in [2 CFR Part 184](#) and [M-24-02](#). This will apply to Lake Champlain awards.



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September 2023 Update for Lake Champlain Steering Committee Meeting 12/14/23

Workgroup Updates

Source Water Protection Workgroup:

NEIWPC will be commenting on EPA's Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements. The focus of the rule is to protect children and adults from the significant, and irreversible, health effects from being exposed to lead in drinking water. Key provisions in the proposal include:

- Achieving 100% Lead Pipe Replacement within 10 years.
- Locating Legacy Lead Pipes.
- Improving Tap Sampling.
- Lowering the Lead Action Level.
- Strengthening Protections to Reduce Exposure.

Comments on the proposed rule must be submitted by February 6, 2024.

NEIWPC Updates

NEIWPC now offers online training courses for wastewater professionals in a self-paced format that can be completed on your schedule from anywhere you have an internet connection.

Wet Weather Operations

This course presents essential knowledge and develops skills necessary to prepare wet weather operating plans for wastewater collection and treatment facilities. Six wastewater training contact hours (6 TCHs) will be awarded for successful completion.

Wastewater Ethics

This course presents ethics terminology, teaches awareness about common ethical dilemmas faced by wastewater professionals, and offers tips for making difficult, but ethical decisions in the future. Four wastewater training contact hours (4 TCHs) will be awarded for successful completion.

Upcoming Events Include:

[Northeast Aquatic Biologists \(NAB\) Conference](#) - February 14, 2024 @ 8:00 am – February 16, 2024 @ 5:00 pm - *Lake Morey Resort, 82 Clubhouse Rd, Fairlee, Vermont.*

The annual Northeast Aquatic Biologist (NAB) Conference provides a forum for the professional sharing of knowledge and collaboration among the aquatic and environmental biologist community in the Northeast. The event is open to all registrants. Attendees include



representatives in New England and New York State, including participants from state, federal, tribal, and municipal governments.

[Annual Nonpoint Source Conference](#) - April 10, 2024 @ 8:00 am – April 11, 2024 @ 5:00 pm - Saybrook Point Resort & Marina, 2 Bridge Street, Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

Join NEIWPCC for two days of engaging discussions, presentations, and networking opportunities around the world of nonpoint source pollution management and information. View the conference webpage for additional details.

NEIWPCC Current Openings include:

Connecticut

Science Writer – Long Island Sound Study (Full-Time)

Massachusetts

Environmental Analyst – Wetlands & Long Island Sound (Full-Time)

Human Resources Intern – Talent Acquisition Assistant (Internship)

New York

Aquatic Invasive Species Boat Launch Stewards (Seasonal/Internship)

Vermont

Administrative Intern – Database Management (Internship)

Aquatic Invasive Species Boat Launch Stewards (Seasonal/Internship)

NEIWPCC’s LCBP-specific work:

LCBP Agreements Executed by Quarter		Number of Agreements
Q4 Total	\$1,109,104	19
Q3 Total	\$ 3,411,811	53
Q2 Total	\$1,385,018	18
Q1 Total	<u>\$ 740,278</u>	<u>17</u>
Grand Total	\$ 6,646,211.00	107

- Submitted FY2023 Funding agreements totaling \$22,507,345:
 - ✓ EPA Section 120, \$12,652,345.
 - ✓ EPA BIL, \$7,555,000.
 - ✓ GLFC, \$1,800,000.
 - ✓ NPS, \$500,000.



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Regional Director, Region 5

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www.dec.ny.gov

NYSDEC's Updates for the LCBP Steering Committee December 14, 2023

- NYSDEC has a new website – visit the [redesigned public website](#) that improves accessibility and the user experience, particularly on mobile devices. The site is significantly easier to use with cellphones, streamlines navigation, includes more powerful search capabilities, and offers new multimedia features to provide a more engaging visitor experience.
- The Adirondack Rail Trail Phase 1 is officially open to the public. Phase 1 is a 10-mile stretch of the Adirondack Rail Trail between Lake Placid and Saranac Lake. Once complete, this ADA accessible trail will be 34-miles long connecting Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake and Lake Placid. The corridor will also feature interpretive signage to help visitors understand the history of the railway, the cultures of adjacent communities, and the natural resources of surrounding lands and waters, creating a linear museum. The rail trail is a key component of the recently completed 2020 Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor Unit Management Plan (UMP) Amendment, which provides a blueprint for sustainably developing the picturesque 119-mile travel corridor as both a rail trail and a scenic railroad to bolster tourism and further recreation opportunities. For more information visit the [NYSDEC's Adirondack Rail Trail website](#).
- DEC released the 2023 Adirondack Park Smart Growth Program Round 7 Grant on November 8, 2023. This funding makes \$3.7 million available from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) for smart growth projects that will implement existing plans or develop new comprehensive plans within the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park (Parks). DEC, in partnership with the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and the Department of State, is soliciting applications from municipalities and not-for-profit corporations. Grants will support key projects that build on planning and economic development activities by implementing a specific strategy or objective. DEC seeks capital projects and community development initiatives that link environmental protection, economic development and community livability within the special conditions of the Parks. The program provides additional evaluation points towards regional or park-wide projects and projects that address affordable housing needs. The program also includes a separate scoring category for development of comprehensive plans and local land use plans as well as updates to prior plans. This is a reimbursement-based grant program. Applications are due by **January 31, 2024, at 3:00 pm (ET)**. More details can be found in the New York State Grants Gateway [here](#).
- New York has begun the process of updating the New York's Open Space Conservation Plan which serves as the blueprint for the State's land conservation efforts. The plan provides four overarching objectives to direct our priorities, policies, and actions:
 - Promote outdoor recreation
 - Address climate change
 - Ensure clean water, air and land for a healthy public and vibrant economy
 - Protect, use and conserve our natural resources and cultural heritage

The Plan provides actions that we can take in pursuit of each objective and a listing of associated programs and policies. The Plan also contains a statewide list of priority conservation projects that are eligible for funding through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). For more information visit the website [here](#).

- Governor Kathy Hochul announced the latest round of communities to achieve certification as part of New York State's [Climate Smart Communities program](#), which supports local efforts to meet the economic, social, and environmental challenges posed by climate change. To achieve Climate Smart Community certification, local governments accumulate points for planning and implementation actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve community resilience to the worsening impacts of climate change. Recently, 21 communities successfully met the criteria to be newly recognized or re-certified as leaders at the bronze level. Additionally, two municipalities were recertified silver, the highest level of achievement available. In the Lake Champlain Basin, the City of Plattsburgh received bronze certification in this round. Communities in the Basin that have received bronze certification in previous rounds: Village of Saranac Lake, Village of Lake Placid, Town of Lake George, Village of Lake George, Warren County, and Town of Queensbury.

Lake Champlain Basin Program Technical Advisory Committee Updates for the Steering Committee, December 14, 2023

The LCBP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has met three times since the last Steering Committee meeting.

Reviews and recommendations

TAC reviewed and approved the workplans for the following FY23 research projects at its October and November meetings:

- “Sources and consequences of stream salinization in the Lake Champlain Basin” with Middlebury College.
- “Using climate models to predict future use of de-icing salts in the Lake Champlain Basin” with Paul Smith’s College Adirondack Watershed Institute.
- “Investigation of Cyanobacterial Blooms in Inland Lakes of the Lake Champlain Basin” with Paul Smith’s College Adirondack Watershed Institute.
- “Not just a needle in a haystack: using models to understand the potential impact of a round goby invasion on the Lake Champlain ecosystem” with the University of Vermont.
- “Agricultural Drainage Research Plots for the Evaluation of Conservation Practices” with the Miner Institute.
- “Consequences of warming winters on nutrient export to Lake Champlain across land uses, phase 2” with the University of Vermont.
- “Nutrient loading to headwater streams in the Lake Champlain Basin: controls of forest age and management” with SUNY Plattsburgh.
- “Pelagic, tributary, and shoreline microplastics in Lake Champlain: Sources and dynamics” with SUNY Plattsburgh.
- “Utilizing Unoccupied Aircraft Systems (UAS) as a Rapid Assessment Tool to Identify and Prioritize Sites for Habitat and Water Quality Protection, Enhancement, and Monitoring” with EA Engineering.
- “Long Term Freshwater Mussel Population Assessment in the Poultney and Lower Missisquoi Rivers” with Arrowwood Environmental.
- “Assessment of watermilfoils (*Myriophyllum spp.*) in the Lake Champlain Basin: population genetics and influence on native plant communities” with SUNY Oneonta.

TAC also reviewed and approved the partial final report for the FY19 technical project “Bioretention soil specifications evaluation,” part of a joint project between Stone Environmental and UVM.

At the December meeting, TAC reviewed Clean Water and Healthy Ecosystems core project summaries and the pre-proposals received in response to the 2023 Clean Water and Healthy Ecosystems Research request for pre-proposals.

Upcoming work

TAC will meet in January to review select updated graphics and messaging concepts for the 2024 *State of the Lake and Ecosystems Indicators* report.

Water quality monitoring buoys

The Lamoille, Malletts Bay, Missisquoi Bay, and St. Albans Bay buoys had successful monitoring seasons, and were removed from the water by November. Preparations are underway for the purchase and deployment of one additional buoy for the 2024 monitoring season, to be stationed in the Northeast Arm.



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



Thriving Communities and HAPAC Report

December 15, 2023

CVNHP Summit and Grants Process

The CVNHP kicked off its FY24 workplan and budget process in August by issuing a request for pre-proposals and hosting the 14th annual CVNHP International Summit on September 18 at the Basin Harbor Club. The summit—attended by 86 stakeholders—included keynote speeches on the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network and the shipwreck of the American Revolution gunboat, *Spitfire*. The knowledge cafés following the presentations allowed participants to network on future interpretive programs and collaborate on developing CVNHP pre-proposals. *Making of Nations* is the interpretive theme of focus with an emphasis on the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution for 2025. The CVNHP received 43 pre-proposals and the HAPAC Review Team recommended 35 of the pre-proposals (totaling \$493,085) advance to the full-proposal process. The Review Team’s findings will be discussed at the Lake Champlain Executive Committee meeting in February 2024.

Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network

Work on CABN continues to advance. On September 6th, CABN Coordinator, Katie Darr, and Sara Constantineau, the SUNY-ESF Climate Atlas Intern, attended the kick-off meeting for the “Promoting Sustainable Development through UNESCO’s Programmes and Sites” grant program at the UNESCO Venice, Italy Office. CABN received a \$25,000 grant from the abrdrn Charitable Foundation and the UNESCO Venice Office to support the next phase of work for the Atlas of Climate & Environmental Change for the Champlain-Adirondack and Frontenac Arch Biosphere Networks. CABN Co-Chair, Dr. Kelly Cerialo, attended the World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves Workshop in Dujianyan, China from September 18-22. Over 60 delegates representing mountain biosphere reserves from 17 countries participated and established a road map for the network moving forward. The CABN Steering Committee welcomed two new members: Gannon Osborn (Land Conservation Program Manager for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation) and Gary Tabor (Founder and President of the Center for Large Landscape Conservation, Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas’ Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group).

Recent Grant Projects

Staff approved final reports for the following CVNHP project since the April 12 meeting of the LCBP Steering Committee: **LS-2021-074: Fort Ticonderoga Association**, Fostering Historical Thinking in Students from the North Country and Beyond; **LS-2022-009: Bixby Library**, Stewardship, Interpretation, and Accessibility of Bixby Library’s Objects and Artifacts Collections; **LS-2022-076: Winooski Valley Park District**, STEM at the Seeds of Renewal Gardens; **LS-2022-100: Samuel de Champlain History Center**, Cataloging and Preservation of the Sheridan Iron Works Collection; **PO100138: William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute**, The Renewal of Heart’s Delight Farm Heritage Exhibit Wayside Walk; **PO100248: Historic Saranac Lake**, Historic Saranac Lake CVNHP Collections Project; **PO100346: Clinton County Historical Association**, Replacement of windows at the Clinton County Historical Association Museum; **PO100371: Lake Champlain Maritime Museum**, Internship in Museum Interpretation for the Public; **PO100380: Bixby Library**, Internship in Library Science and Archives.



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



2022 Local Heritage Grant

Fostering Historical Thinking in Students from the North Country and Beyond

Project Summary

Fort Ticonderoga used a CVNHP Local Heritage Grant to expand participation by teachers and students in North Country History Day for the 2022/2023 School Year and connect students from across New York and Vermont participating in National History Day with regional resources. Three in-person and two virtual History Day workshops were held for teachers throughout New York and Vermont to introduce them to the program. Teaching historical literacy and critical thinking skills is vital not only for participation in the History Day program, but also in academic pursuits in general.

Organization: Fort Ticonderoga
 Contact Person: Martha Strum
 Mailing Address: PO Box 390
 Phone: (518) 585-2821
 E-mail: mstrum@fort-ticonderoga.org
 Website: www.fortticonderoga.org



History Day included two in-person events at Fort Ticonderoga and three digital workshops.

Outcome: Tasks addressed in the 2011 CVNHP Management Plan:
 Task 9.1.2: Support historical and archaeological research and documentation
 Task 9.12.1: Continue to conduct teacher training workshops

Output: The project expanded student participation in History Day, while instilling historical research, critical thinking, and communication skills in students.

NEIWPC Code	LS-2021-074
Date Complete:	June 26, 2023
Grant Amount:	\$7,500.00
Non-federal Match:	\$1,160.00
Total Amount:	\$8,660.00



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



2022 Collections Grant

Furthering Bixby Library's Collections Management Plan

Project Summary

Bixby Memorial Free Library completed its 2022 CVNHP Collections Grant-funded project, "Stewardship, Interpretation, and Accessibility of Bixby Objects and Artifacts Collections" in May 2023. In addition to its work as a traditional library, Bixby Memorial Library has served as a repository for local, regional, and national cultural material dating from the pre-contact era to the mid-twentieth century. Building on the collections management improvements supported by a 2019 CVNHP grant, the goal of the project was to provide new interpretation projects at the Bixby Library, including learning kits for circulation at schools and cultural organizations, multi-sensory physical and digital exhibits, blogs, and social media posts to tell stories of community leaders and members to increase awareness, pride, and excitement for our rich and varied local history.

Outcome: Tasks addressed in the 2011 CVNHP Management Plan:

Action 9.1: Provide support for needed historical and archaeological research, and accelerate the identification, evaluation, protection, and interpretation of heritage resources

Task 9.1.1: Support historical and archaeological research and documentation

Task 9.1.3: Utilize new and existing research and documentation to support the evaluation, conservation, and interpretation of natural and cultural heritage resources.

Task 9.8.3: Support the use of new information technology to provide quality information on heritage and recreation resources.

Organization: Bixby Mem. Free Library
 Contact Person: Patricia Reid
 Mailing Address: 258 Main Street
 Vergennes, VT 05491
 Phone: (802) 877-2211
 E-mail: patricia.reid@bixbylibrary.org
 Website: <http://bixbylibrary.org/>

Output: The Outputs include the creation of four artifact history kits (now named Bixby's Mobile Museums) available for loan to school and community groups, each with a user's manual, readings and questions for investigation included a district-wide teacher workshop presenting the kit project; four related exhibits at the library; and text and images ready to deploy through blogs and social media as part of the history kits launch this summer and fall.



NEIWPC Code	LS-2022-009
Date Complete:	6/5/2023
Grant Amount:	\$7,500.00
Non-federal Match:	\$3,431.78
Total Amount:	\$10,931.78



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



2022 Local Heritage Grant

Indigenous STEM at the Vermont Indigenous Heritage Center

Project Summary

The Vermont Indigenous Heritage Center (VIHC) located in the Burlington Intervale, Vermont completed the first phase of a project to encourage indigenous people to become in STEM, from 5th graders to adult students. Beginning in the Summer of 2022 and going through late winter, 2023, the grant brought Abenakis of all ages to the new Laboratory for Traditional Technology (LTTE) and the established VIHC Demonstration and Botanical Gardens to study the more technical aspects of gardening and doing research on the horticulture and the resulting crop output. This included seasonal activities such as watering, weeding and otherwise managing the plots, as well as working with the harvest. In addition, the VIHC offered public programming on Indigenous horticulture in venues ranging from garden tours at the VIHC Botanical Gardens, Harvest School at the LTTE to Wabanaki Horticulture and “Food as Medicine” professional development training for the Vermont Department of Health.

Organization: Winooski River Park District
 Contact: Lauren Chicote
 Mailing Address: 1 Ethan Allen Homestead Burlington, VT 05408
 Phone: (802) 863-5744
 E-mail: laurenchicote@wvpd.org
 Website: www.wvpd.org

Output: Outputs include three syllabi and PowerPoint slide lectures for ongoing and future STEM training in Vermont, a publication on outfitting an Indigenous STEM facility, and original primary research.



Students—young and older— utilized the Laboratory For Traditional Technology at the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington

Outcome: Tasks addressed in the 2011 CVNHP Management Plan:

- Task 9.1.1: Support historical and archeological research and documentation.
- Task 9.1.2: Support ethnographic research and documentation of the cultures within the CVNHP.
- Task 9.1.3: Utilize new and existing research and documentation to support the evaluation, conservation, and interpretation of natural and cultural heritage resources.
- Task 9.8.3: Support the use of new information technology to provide quality information on heritage and recreation resources.
- Task 9.12.2: Develop a comprehensive CVNHP Resource Guide for educators to use in developing teaching units focused on the natural & cultural heritage of the region.

NEIWPC Code LS-2022-076
 Date Complete: 4/12/23
 Grant Amount: \$4,000.00
 Non-federal Match: \$5,709.78
 Total Amount: \$9,709.78



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



2022 CVNHP Collections Grant

Catalogue and Preservation of the Sheridan Iron Works Collection

Project Summary

The Samuel de Champlain History Center utilized a 2022 CVNHP Collections Grant to catalog the Sheridan Iron Works collection, the contents of which were donated by former employees, their wives and their children. Since the Iron Works closed 40 years ago, was imperative that the items be inventoried, and a finding aid developed for future reference. The project publicized the collection on the History Center's Facebook page and website, which spurred former employees and relatives of former employees to view the materials and help to identify its contents. The finding aid and images of the collection are available online at: <http://www.champlainhistory.org/>.

Organization: Samuel de Champlain History Center
Contact: Celine Paquette
Mailing: PO Box 3333
Address: Champlain, NY 12919
Phone: (518) 298-1609
E-mail: director@champlainhistory.org

Output: The project increased the public's awareness of the Sheridan Iron Works Collection at the History Center.



Three foundry workers pose at the Sheridan Iron Works

Outcome: Tasks addressed in the 2011 CVNHP Management Plan:

Task 9.1.1: Support historical and archeological research and documentation.

Task 9.1.2: Support ethnographic research and documentation of the cultures within the CVNHP.

NEIWPC Code	LS-2022-100
Date Complete:	1/9/2023
Grant Amount:	\$6,000.00
Non-federal Match:	\$1,840.00
Total Amount:	\$7,840.00



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



2021 Collections Grant

The Renewal of Heart's Delight Farm Heritage Exhibit Wayside

Project Summary

More than 50,000 people have visited Miner Institute and the Heart's Delight Farm Heritage Exhibit since ten interpretative panels were installed 20 years ago. As with the rest of the exhibit, the self-guided panels are the primary way to share the Miners' story of their innovative farm while transporting visitors back to early twentieth-century life in the Champlain Valley life.

When the original panels were designed 20 years ago only a few hundred photographic negatives were digitized. Today the entire collection is digitized. Therefore, along with revising the text on the panels, Miner Institute selected new images from our expanded digital collection for some of the panels.

With design assistance from the LCBP under a 2021 CVNHP Collections Grant, Miner Institute redesigned the panels' text and imagery for an updated look. The panels were fabricated locally and installation was completed by the Miner Institute maintenance staff.

Organization: Miner Institute
 Contact: Amy Bedard
 Mailing Address: 1034 Miner Farm Road, Chazy, NY 12921
 Phone: 518-846-7121 ext. 149
 E-mail: bedard@whminer.com
 Website: <https://whminer.org/>



Outcome: Tasks addressed in the 2011 CVNHP Management Plan:

- Task 9.6.1: Develop and/or improve natural and cultural heritage interpretative trails using wayside exhibits and other informative media.
- Task 9.9.1: Continue to provide design services for interpretive materials.
- Task 9.9.2: Establish a unified, broadly applicable design template for all interpretive materials sponsored by the CVNHP.
- Task 9.16.1: Develop a template and design manual for maps, brochures, guides, and interpretive signs for the CVNHP that is based on the LCBP Wayside Exhibit design, and provide design services to organizations willing to use the templates.

Output: A redesigned interpretive panels installed on Miner Institute's wayside walk.

NEIWPC Code	PO100138
Date Complete:	June 28, 2023
Grant Amount:	\$3,420.00
Non-federal Match:	\$4,628.00
Total Amount:	\$8,048.00



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



2022 Collections Grant

Historic Saranac Lake Collections Care

Project Summary

Historic Saranac Lake (HSL) utilized a 2022 CVNHP Collections Grant to design the climate control technology and a fire suppression system for the collections storage and research wing of the Trudeau Building. The project ensures the protection of the HSL collection, a vital component to the organization's educational mission. It will make it possible for researchers and the public to continue to access HSL's collection to develop quality educational programs in the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership region.

Organization: Historic Saranac Lake
 Contact: Amy Catania
 Mailing Address: 89 Church St. Saranac Lake, NY 12983
 Phone: (518) 891-4606
 E-mail: amy@historicsaranaclake.org
 Website: historicsaranaclake.org



Outcome: Tasks addressed in the 2011 CVNHP Management Plan:

- Task 9.1.1: Support historical and archeological research and documentation.
- Task 9.1.3: Utilize new and existing research and documentation to support the evaluation, conservation, and interpretation of natural and cultural heritage resources.
- Task 9.4.4: Provide assistance to organizations that wish to develop comprehensive conservation plans that address individual issues in a regional context.

Output: Historic Saranac Lake completed the architectural design of climate control and fire suppression in the collections wing of the Trudeau Building.

NEIWPCC Code	PO100248
Date Complete:	Aug. 18, 2023
Grant Amount:	\$7,500.00
Non-federal Match:	\$22,500.00
Total Amount:	\$30,000.00



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



2023 CVNHP Collections Grant

Replacement of Windows at the Clinton County Historical Association Museum

Project Summary

Five deteriorating windows were removed and replaced with new energy efficient, low-e protection windows the at the Clinton County Historical Association Museum at 98 Ohio Avenue, Plattsburgh, NY. The requirements for replacement windows were established and approved in advance by both the City of Plattsburgh and the New York State Historic Preservation Officer.

Organization: Clinton Co. Historical Assc.
Contact: Helen Nerska
Mailing Address: 98 Ohio Avenue, Plattsburgh, NY 12903
Phone: 518-561-0340
E-mail: Director@ClintonCountyHistorical.org
Website: www.clintoncountyhistorical.org



Two CVNHP Collections Grants have paid for the replacement of eight windows at the museum



Workers replace one of the museum's windows on Saint Patrick's Day 2023.

Output: Four deteriorating windows were replaced with New York State Historic Preservation Office- and City of Plattsburgh-approved energy efficient and advanced low-e protection windows.

Outcome: Tasks addressed in the 2011 CVNHP Management Plan:
Task 9.19.3. Support the installation of energy-saving devices and materials in cultural heritage facilities.

NEIWPC Code	PO100346
Date Complete:	4/25/2023
Grant Amount:	\$8,000.00
Non-federal Match:	\$7,506.22
Total Amount:	\$15,506.22



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



2023 CVNHP Internship Grant

Internship in Museum Interpretation for the Public Project Summary

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum's 2023 Interpretation Intern, Uma Ashrani, developed skills of museum and public interpretation for 10 weeks, from late May through end of August. The Museum provided training and resources in object interpretation, historical research, and public service skills to interact with visitors in a wide range of interests, backgrounds, and ages. Over the course of the summer season, Uma offered a total of 142 programs to the public and engaged with 1,115 visitors. Programs included interpreting the replica Lois McClure, providing ROV shipwreck tours, talks on Indigenous History during the Revolutionary War, Environmental Justice, and more. Uma was accessible and engaged onsite throughout their internship, which significantly improved visitor experience. Visitors went from passive observation to an engaging, active, and memorable experience. This internship fulfilled our mission of connecting people with the history of Lake Champlain in a meaningful way.

Organization: Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
Contact: Chris Sabick
Mailing Address: 4472 Basin Harbor Road Vergennes, VT 05490
Phone: (802) 475-2022
E-mail: chriss@lcmm.org
Website: www.lcmm.org

Outcome: Tasks addressed in the 2011 CVNHP Management Plan:
Task 9.1.3: Utilize new and existing research and documentation to support the evaluation, conservation, and interpretation of natural and cultural heritage resources.
Task 9.9.6: Support professional development for interpreters.
Task 9.10.1: Continue to explore Key Partner opportunities for shared programs.

Output: The intern received public interpretation training, presented 142 public programs reaching 1,115 visitors, and developed tour notes and resource lists for seven programs.



Intern Uma Ashrani presented 142 public programs in 2023

NEIWPC Code	PO100371
Date Complete:	12/8/2021
Grant Amount:	\$8,000.00
Non-federal Match:	\$2,160.00
Total Amount:	\$10,160.00



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



2023 Internship Grant

Internship in Object and Artifact Research and Outreach

Project Summary

A 2023 CVNHP Internship Grant supported a 5-month long internship at Bixby Memorial Free Library in 2023. The library hired Anna Hurd, a graduate student studying archives records management at Simmons University, for this role. Anna learned and employed historical research, archival processing, and public outreach skills to create a detailed finding aid for the library's Strong Collection and made this collection (among others!) accessible to the public through newsletter and social media posts.

Organization: Bixby Mem. Free Library

Contact Person: Patricia Reid

Mailing Address: 258 Main Street

Phone: (802) 877-2211

E-mail: patricia.reid@bixbylibrary.org

Website: <http://bixbylibrary.org/>



The Bixby Team with Anna Hurd (2nd from right).



Intern Anna Hurd completed a detailed finding aid for the Strong Collection, wrote four newsletter briefs and 19 social media blurbs while interning at Bixby.

Outcome: Tasks addressed in the 2011 CVNHP Management Plan:

Action 9.1: Provide support for needed historical and archaeological research, and accelerate the identification, evaluation, protection, and interpretation of heritage resources

Task 9.1.1: Support historical and archaeological research and documentation

Task 9.1.3: Utilize new and existing research and documentation to support the evaluation, conservation, and interpretation of natural and cultural heritage resources.

Task 9.6.5: Support efforts to link communities through transportation routes that interpretation of heritage resources.

Task 9.10.4: Support initiatives that highlight the relationships among stakeholder sites and programs through interpretation, while maintaining the individual character of those sites.

Output: The intern's outputs included: 1) press release; 2) a detailed Strong Collection finding aid; 3) associated newsletter briefs and social media posts.

NEIWPC Code	PO100380
Date Complete:	12/11/2023
Grant Amount:	\$8,000.00
Non-federal Match:	\$4,752.00
Total Amount:	\$12,752.00