



Lake Champlain Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 9:30am - 12:30pm
(Via Microsoft Teams)

ALL ATTENDANCE:

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Bryan Dore (Chair, EPA R1), Julie Moore (VTANR), Karin Stainbrook for Joe Zalewski (NYS DEC), Walt Lender (Chair, NY CAC), Pierre Leduc (Chair, Quebec CAC), Karina Dailey (Chair, VT CAC), Buzz Hoerr (Chair, E&O Committee), Susan Evans McClure (Chair, HAPAC), Neil Kamman (Chair, TAC), Phil Giltner (NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation), Daniel Tremblay on behalf of Stefanos Bitzakidis (MELCCFP), Antony Tseng (EPA R2)

STAFF: LCBP: Eric Howe, Mae Kate Campbell, Kerry Crowningshield, Lauren Jenness, Elizabeth Lee, Corrie Miller, Ryan Mitchell, Grace Palmer, Meg Modley Gilbertson, Matthew Vaughan, Sonya Vogel, Erin Vennie-Vollrath (LCBP NY Coordinator NYS DEC), Sarah Coleman (VT ANR), Sarita Croce (NEIWPCC), Jim Brangan, Beth Whitmore-Stolar (NEIWPCC/LCBP), Anna Vold, Emma Dannenberg, Emma Janson, Ali Jackson; Michele Fafette (EPA R2), Theresa Vander Woude (EPA R1), Karyn Hanson (NYSDEC)

GUESTS: Rebecca Ellis (Sen. Welch's Office), Ethan Hinch (Sen. Sanders' office)

MEETING BEGINS

9:45 AM

INTRODUCTIONS: Bryan Dore, EPA R1 Chaired the meeting. He began the meeting with a round of introductions.

Approval of Summary of previous meeting

ACTION ITEM: Approve Meeting Minutes from **October 7, 2025** Executive Committee Meeting

- Motion By: Neil Kamman
- Second by: Buzz Hoerr
- Discussion on the motion: None
- Vote: All in favor
- Abstentions: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

9:55 AM

No members of the public were present.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATES

10:00 AM

- Ethan Hinch (Senator Sanders): The government shutdown has ended and the government has fully reopened. The government is funded temporarily through January 2026. The Senate versions of the FY2026 Appropriations bill include \$25M for LCBP and \$818K for LC Sea Lamprey control (to the USFWS).
- Rebecca Ellis (Senator Welch): Congress passed a minibuss that included USDA Agriculture, but there is talk about a second minibuss that could include interior.

GRANT AWARDS Eric shared that the Clean Water and Healthy Ecosystem grant opportunities that will be considered today were significantly oversubscribed this year. There is approximately \$300,000 in additional funding available from the Community Liaison program funded in the FY24 budget that was discontinued. Those funds can be reallocated to the CW or HE grants if needed; however, we expect the upcoming Education and Outreach and AIS Spread Prevention grants to be oversubscribed as well.

ACTION ITEM: Motion to enter into Executive Session

- Motion By: Neil Kamman
- Second by: Antony Tseng
- Discussion on the motion: None
- Vote: All in favor
- Abstentions: Karina will recuse herself for the AOP ROD discussion and Pierre will recuse himself for the Clean Water Large, Small, and Planning discussions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

10:15 AM

Artist-in-Residence (FY2024 EPA)

CVNHP Pre-Proposals advancement to Full Proposal (Anticipated FY26 NPS)

New York Wetlands and Riparian Restoration (FY2022-4 IIJA funds)

Aquatic Organism Passage Round 2 (FY2022-4 IIJA funds)

Clean Water Grants – Large, Small, and Planning (FY2025 EPA, GLFC)

Healthy Ecosystems – Large and Small (FY2025 EPA, GLFC)

Exit Executive Session.

GRANT AWARD DECISIONS:

ACTION ITEM: **MOTION TO APPROVE** Artist-in-Residence ROD as presented and discussed in Executive Session

- Motion By: Neil Kamman
- Second by: Karina Dailey
- Discussion on the motion: none
- Vote: All in favor
- Abstentions: none

ACTION ITEM: MOTION TO ADVANCE CVNHP Pre-Proposals to full Proposal, as presented and discussed in Executive Session

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

ACTION ITEM: MOTION TO APPROVE NY Wetlands and Riparian Restoration ROD, as presented and discussed in Executive Session -- tabled to December 8th

ACTION ITEM: MOTION TO APPROVE Aquatic Organism Passage Round 2 ROD as presented and discussed in Executive Session

- Motion By: Neil Kamman
- Second by: Julie Moore
- Discussion on the motion: Clarify ROD to support at funding levels proposed by review committee
- Vote: All in favor
- Abstentions: Karina Dailey

ACTION ITEM: MOTION TO APPROVE Clean Water grants (Large, Small, and Planning) ROD, as presented and discussed in Executive Session

- Motion By: Neil Kamman
- Second by: Karina Dailey
- Discussion on the motion: As proposed but requesting the Director review project 15 and determine appropriate funding for project 15.
- Vote: All in favor
- Abstentions: Pierre Leduc

ACTION ITEM: MOTION TO APPROVE Healthy Ecosystems – Habitat and Native Species Conservation (Large and Small) ROD through Row 9 in the spreadsheet as presented and discussed in Executive Session

- Motion By: Neil Kamman
- Second by: Julie Moore
- Discussion on the motion: Confirm that only projects through Row 9 will be awarded.
- Vote: All in favor
- Abstentions: None

UPDATES

The committee discussed improving how the program documents and communicates its project work. Members expressed strong interest in developing an online roster of ongoing projects and enhancing the existing, outdated grant database to better showcase accomplishments. Several

participants highlighted opportunities for GIS-based mapping and StoryMaps to visualize project locations and impacts, with offers to assist if project data are provided.

The group also agreed to convene a small discussion on refining the project scoring and budget process, with Eric coordinating. Antony requested a list of New York applicants to help identify where additional support could strengthen future submissions. Members briefly discussed potential engagement with Congresswoman Stefanik's office to understand outreach channels, though this was identified as a parallel, not primary, thread.

Overall, the discussion centered on improving transparency, usability, and visibility of project information to better support stakeholders and applicants.

ADJOURN

12:30 PM