

**Lake Champlain Basin Program
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday November 1st 2017
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

Approved TAC Meeting Summary

TAC attendance: Mike Winslow, Jamie Shanley, Eric Perkins, Breck Bowden, Bernie Pientka, Mark Malchoff, Ed Snizek, Neil Kamman, Fred Dunlap, Martin Mimeault, Angela Shambaugh, Jenn Callahan, Bill Ardren (phone), Mario Paula (phone), Eric Young (phone), James Jutras
Phone guests: Kari Dolan, Kelley Tucker, Bethany Sargent, Tom Berry
In-person guests: Ron Rhodes, Brian T. Fitzgerald, Rose Paul
Staff: Ellen Kujawa, Matthew Vaughan, Meg Modley, Ryan Mitchell

10:00 AM Updates, announcements, and public comments

Breck Bowden: Lake Champlain Sea Grant recommended for institute status. Still two big steps to occur before formal institute status.

Martin Mimeault: QC has a new minister. Watershed groups are working hard to get river buffers installed.

Jamie Shanley: In conjunction with IJC flood study, there will probably be three new short term stream gages.

Neil Kamman: Most recent round of ecosystem restoration grants closed. Twenty-six projects were selected to move forward. Represents ~\$800,000 being awarded. Letters are going out today. Two new tactical basin plans in the works for LC Basin. First is South Lake Champlain Basin. Updated phase 2 content for direct north LC basin.

Kari Dolan: Secretary of agriculture reporting to legislature today re: clean water funds.

Angela Shambaugh: Conservation Law Foundation has challenged the six most recent wastewater permits.

Mike Winslow: Vermont PBS has released "Saving our waters" and there are 3 public forums.

Review and approve summary of previous TAC meeting

Motion to approve by Neil, seconded by Martin. All in favor.

LCBP updates

- LCBP currently has four RFPs open: Local Implementation Grant applications are due November 15th, Technical Pre-proposals are due November 8th, Enhanced BMP proposals are due December 21st, and Alternative and Innovative Agriculture proposals are due December 21st. All RFPs are available at lcbp.org/grants
- The Rock River Geomorphic Assessment Project planning group met last week. They decided to release an RFP in spring 2018 for a field season 2019 – 2020 project.
- VT PBS and VT EPSCoR documentary on Lake Champlain and other VT lakes, Saving Our Waters, premiered. LCBP provided supporting funding and video footage, and Eric Howe was interviewed.
- The deadline for abstract submission for the Lake Champlain Research Conference was extended to November 10th, 2017. The conference will be held January 8 – 9, 2018.
- LCBP staff will collaborate with USGS to conduct the next Lake Champlain tributary loading trend analysis.

John Kanoza changed roles to Director of public Health in Clinton County Health Department and cannot continue to serve on TAC. Ryan Davies to replace him. Matt will reach out to Ryan and will bring his resume to Exec / steering committees if he is interested.

10:20 AM Updated Lake Champlain Basin Atlas presentation, Ryan Mitchell (LCBP)

Ryan Mitchell presented an updated Lake Champlain Basin Atlas to the TAC. Updated features include interactive online maps (an improvement over the previous static PDF versions), several layers to visually turn on and off, and new data to show that was not previously available. The update was met with enthusiasm from the TAC, and several suggestions were made to maximize utility.

11:00 AM Dam removal presentation and discussion, Brian T. Fitzgerald (Vermont Natural Resources Council), Ron Rhodes (Connecticut River Conservancy)

BT reviewed the benefits of dam removal and the activities of the Vermont Dam Task Force. Hundreds of miles of river passage have been opened up due to Vermont dam removals. Ron reviewed the steps toward removing a “dead beat” dam and the work that he has been doing with the Connecticut River Conservancy. Kelley Tucker noted that Ausable River Association has been working on smaller dam removal projects and the larger Rome Dam removal.

TAC showed support for dam removal projects and discussed how it could be structured at LCBP. Options include:

- Local implementation grants (dam removal is eligible for Pollution Prevention and Habitat Conservation category)
- Enhanced BMP grants – could call out for dam removal projects
- Issue RFPs for individual dams
- Prioritize for FY19 pre-proposals
- Dedicate LCBP staff time and coordination

12:15 PM Lunch, LCBP video showing

1:00 PM Review FY18 core project 2-pagers

TAC reviewed several of the 2-pagers and had discussion on which should be considered as “core,” which would be separate from the other pre-proposals.

Motion by Breck: Consider the following projects core: Enhanced BMP, cyanobacteria monitoring, LTMP, Water chestnut, AIS rapid response, and Boat Launch stewards and to discuss all others at a later time together with other pre-proposals Second: Ed.

Breck amends motion to include the UVM met stations into core projects.

All in favor – the motion carries.

2:00 PM State of the Lake figure review

LCBP staff showed updates for the following State of the Lake figures:

- Phosphorus loading from wastewater treatment facilities
- Beach closures
- Sea lamprey wounding

TAC provided feedback to LCBP staff that will be incorporated into redesigns for 2018 State of the Lake and Ecosystem Indicators Report.

3:00 PM Adjourn