

Lake Champlain Basin Program

Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Valcour Conference Center, Peru, NY

APPROVED MINUTES

Members: Rich Wagner (for Betsy Lowe), Daniel Leblanc, David Mears, Erik Beck, Roman Rakoczy (for Gene Brickman), Ron Jackson, Brad Young (for Dave Tilton), John Krueger, Louis Hak, Réal Pelletier, Marilyn Stephenson (for Astor Boozer), Vicky Drew, Buzz Hoerr, Bob Brower (for Mike Latham), Roseanne Murphy, Catherine Brooks, Laura DiPietro (for Chuck Ross), Mario Paula (phone), Breck Bowden (phone), Mark Hohengasser (phone)

Staff: Bill, Colleen, Kathy, Eric, Nicole, Ryan, Jim, Lynne Hamjian, Beth Card (on phone), Fred Dunlap

Meeting Begins – *Rich Wagner, Chair* welcomed all. Introductions around the table.

Action Item: Ron moved to approve the January 20-21, 2011 minutes with one correction (add the Agency of Municipal Affairs, Sylvie Goupil). Bob seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comments & Dialogue - None

Updates from Jurisdictions

- **Vermont** – David reported that Julie Moore has left state government and complimented her work with Clean and Clear; ANR has reorganized the program, placed in within the Water Quality Division, and renamed it the *Ecosystem Restoration Program*. Eric Smeltzer is acting director.
- **Quebec** – Daniel reported that phosphorus balance reports, certified by an agronomist, are required from farms by the Ministry of Environment every year at this time, or whenever there is a change in practices. These reports are now coming in for this year. The Province can give a subsidy to farmers with BMPs if they are in compliance with regulations and send in reports as required. If the farmers do not submit the phosphorus balance reports to the Ministry they will not receive future subsidies.
- **New York** – Rich reported that NYS DEC Commissioner, Joe Martens, was confirmed on March 8th. NY's new budget will continue the 10 economic development councils throughout NY State. A commission will be examining state and government office efficiency will be looking at all agencies and commissions, with a plan to reduce budgets by 20%.

Updates from Advisory Committees

- **VT CAC** - Buzz distributed and described the CAC's *Lake Champlain Action Plan*. He announced two new appointees: Mark Naud, an environmental attorney who owns Shore Acres, and Julie Moore.
- **E&O:** LCBP hosted three workshops in last month. The Don't P conference brought together staff from retail stores to learn about the P bill and what they can do to reduce phosphorus load. A local watershed group meeting brought 16 groups together for networking. Last Friday LCBP hosted a boat dealer and marina workshop dealing with invasive species prevention.

- **NY CAC** Ron distributed a summary of recent meetings and described a successful watershed stewardship summit that focused on invasive species included a presentation on the Boat Launch Stewards program.
- **QC CAC** – The Bay Missisquoi Corporation submitted to MDDEP the draft master water plan for Missisquoi Bay. This will be finalized at a meeting on June 16th in St Armand.
- **HAPAC** – Now that HAPAC has been appointed, the first HAPAC meeting will be on May 2nd.
- **TAC** –TAC met twice since the last Steering Committee meeting. Proposals for two projects, the littoral habitat study, and the culvert assessment were reviewed. In March, TAC heard a report from LimnoTech about the Internal P project in Missisquoi Bay, and participated in *State of the Lake* planning discussions. TAC also reviewed workplans for the Bass Survival and Disbursal project and the Mercury and PCB assessment in sport fish, and Neil Kamman (VT DEC) described the new VT Surface Water Management Strategy.

Legislative and FY11 Funding Update – Tom Berry described the continuing resolution for FY11 and hope that the focus can soon turn to the FY2012 budget. He conveyed Senator Leahy’s thanks to EPA for its careful review of the TMDL issues, and to VTDEC for taking a partnership approach with EPA. Tom reported that the USACOE plans to pick up support for the 2011 Water chestnut program.

Manager’s Report – Bill described the initiation of new projects reflecting FY10 funding. *State of the Lake* planning is the main new task on the horizon; Bill proposed to the Executive Committee that this report be released in May 2012 rather than in 2010, and the Committee has agreed to that schedule.

State of the Lake 2012 Report Planning – Bill and staff circulated and presented the detailed preliminary outline of the *State of the Lake* report. The Steering Committee reviewed the draft and adjusted content, and Nicole updated the outline as it was discussed.

FY11 budget – further discussion of technical tasks

The task spreadsheet approved at the January meeting was reviewed in detail, in order to affirm the prioritization of tasks so that when the FY11 budget is finalized, LCBP can be guided in contract development without further meetings. After extensive review, the Committee reaffirmed the ranking as previously listed, regardless of the source of funding.

Action Item: Marilyn moved to accept the prioritized task list unchanged as ranked in January; David seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Action Item: Louis moved to enter Executive Session to discuss nominees for appointment; Ron seconded the motion.

- The Committee entered **Executive Session**
- The Committee return to **Open Session** by order of the Chair

Action Item: Ron moved to appoint Isabelle Gregoire and John Spissinger to the E&O Committee; Roseanne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Adjourn 2:43