

Lake Champlain Basin Program
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday October 5th, 2016
10:15 AM – 3:00 PM
LCBP Conference Room, Gordon Center House, Grand Isle, VT

TAC Meeting Summary

I. 9:30 Executive Session- Request for Proposals Review

II. 10:15 AM Updates and Announcements

Laura DiPietro, VAAFM: Committee review of RAPs completed; continue to move forward through the rulemaking process.

Bill Ardren, USFWS: Andrew Milliken has joined USFWS as the Lake Champlain Project Leader, replacing Dave Tilton who retired October 2015. Sea lamprey control treatments were delayed for permitting but most issues have been overcome with the exception of Missisquoi River, which has been rescheduled to 2017. Stonebridge and LaPlatte treatments have been issued permits this year; there is still time for treatment in early November but we need a lot of rain.

Bob Brower, NYS DAM: NYS Ag and Markets announced \$2.5M for ag practices for water and air quality as well as upland water control. Great Lakes basin released \$250,000 for NAT assessments for connectivity for wildlife, includes \$10k for each SWCD for crossings. LCBP districts are all trained and getting the database together.

Mark Malchoff, LCSG: EPA R2 and USCG are ground truthing geographic response plans in response to oil train derailment issues. Mark is participating and they are surveying the entire NY lake shoreline to evaluate where to set booms and access points.

EPA is also looking at response plans on the VT side to identify where sensitive resources and risks may be. First meeting Shelburne on October 13th. VT purpose is for oil trains and any other risks to the area. Any other risk of emergency spills will be incorporated. Start with three focus areas.

Breck Bowden, UVM: UVM Rubenstein School has hired two new limnologists to start in 2017 and also looking at a spousal hire. He will give seminar on 17th of Oct at 1pm Aiken Center 103.

Angela Shambaugh, VT DEC – VT has a second population of starry stonewort in the Northeast Kingdom and an evaluation of the Phase 1 TMDL plan is back to EPA and response to comments is occurring. Second installation of training for contractors for shoreline development has been scheduled. Clean Water Initiative brown bag series will be Neil Kamman on Oct 13th from 11-12noon reviewing “Local Implementation Teams for Clean Water”. VTCAC meets on the 17th in Shelburne with a focus on stormwater management.

Martin Mimeault, QC MDDELCC– initiating a project with agronomists for BMP implementation for pollution reduction for shoreline stabilization in Missisquoi Bay watershed. Support from the Ministry of Agriculture and the local watershed groups for 3 years. They will have an agronomist working with Richard Lauzier mainly in the streams of the Pike River.

III. 10:20 AM Summary of Previous TAC Meeting

- a. Review and approve minutes from the September 7th TAC meeting.
Bob Brower moved to approve with minor amendments, second from Angela Shambaugh.
All in favor.

IV. 10:25 AM LCBP updates, *Meg Modley, LCBP*

- a. Updates on LCBP activities since the last meeting.
- b. LCB Land Use/Land Cover RFP is out and proposals are due November 1; Ryan Mitchell will be the LCBP Project Officer for this one. Staff are working with ECHO at Leahy Center on developing State of the Lake exhibits. Josh Klavens serving as an EcoAmericorps member at LCBP. Colleen and Kerry C are working on healthy soils initiative targeting residential homeowners of lawn-care. Technical Coordinator interviews have been completed; hope to have someone new in place by November 1st. Local Implementation grants are out with E&O and Organizational Support due in October and AIS and Pollution Prevention/Habitat Conservation proposals due in December.

Lake Champlain Basin Program Toxics Workgroup met last month with a presentation from Jim Pagano (SUNY Oswego) and Tom Holsen (Clarkson). Have found higher than expected concentrations of several different classes of contaminants in lake trout from Lake Champlain, including PBDEs, which are typically from flame retardants. Suggestion from that group to host a CSMI Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative – put together a meeting in February or March to talk about monitoring and what is being collected and what more data we might need.

Meg Modley: NYSDEC has a grant out for \$1M for decontamination/steward stations for AIS Spread Prevention programs. The AIS RR Task Force released their recommendation to pursue a General Permit for treatment of Asian clam in Lake Bomoseen. Waiting for VTANR response for a plan.

Opportunities for Action – The Steering Committee had a long conversation in September and went through the bulk of the Plan; staff are working on revisions from that discussion. Will discuss again with Executive Committee at their November meeting and in December we hope the Steering Committee will sign off on it. Then we enter process of EPA International Office of Tribal Affairs, EPA, and set up public meetings in three jurisdictions for public comment period.

V. 10:30 AM FY17 Budget process – *Meg Modley & Mike Winslow*

- a. Mike Winslow reviewed the FY17 budget priorities from the Steering Committee and the process we'll use this year to develop, review and rank the concept papers. More or less identical to last year's process.
- b. TAC split into three focus groups and discussed to address the following topic areas (75 minutes). Concept papers (1-pagers) should be submitted to Meg by October 27.
 - i. Monitoring
 - ii. Phosphorus/Nutrient reduction
 - iii. Toxic Substances and pathogens (including cyanobacteria)
 - iv. Fish, Wildlife & Plants
 - v. Aquatic Invasive Species
 - vi. Climate Change
 - vii. Economics

VI. 12:45 PM FY16 Final Report Presentation: Advanced Flood Recovery Training Modules, *Roy Schiff, Milone & MacBroom*

- a. Roy provided an overview of the final products of the flood recovery training modules his team developed over the past year.
- b. Developed four training modules: Sediment and large wood removal, Channel stabilization, Floodplain restoration, Geomorphic-engineering design of bridges and culverts. These are “Tier 3” modules, which emphasize permanent work, in consideration of emergency and temporary work that build off Tier 1 and 2 training efforts. Modules are set up for face-to-face teaching in a classroom setting, possibly posted on internet for easy access. Modules are targeted to experienced designers, e.g. public works directors with river management experience. Modules connect observed damages to river processes, highlight common mistakes, include habitat maintenance recommendations, provide alternatives analysis overie, and some examples of design methods for each of the modules. Roy reviewed the Floodplain Restoration module as an example of the training modules that were developed through this grant.
- c. ACTION: TAC will discuss approval of this product as a final report for their award.
- d. Motion to approve by Neil, second by John K. All in favor.

VII. 1:30 PM Workplan review: McKenzie Brook/South Lake Champlain Direct Tributary Precipitation and Streamflow Monitoring, Blaine Hastings & Ethan Swift, VTDEC

- a. Blaine and Ethan reviewed the workplan for monitoring several small lake-direct drainages in southern Addison County. There were some logistical challenges finding suitable locations that were not lake-influenced and discussion about how and where to site the stations to best estimate nutrient loads given the weather variability in this area. There was significant discussion about whether the project should be scoped to identify phosphorus load reductions in the McKenzie Brook watershed, or if the intention is to scope the project to document load reductions from interventions, which may not necessarily be located within the watershed.
- b. TAC could not resolve this without further guidance; Eric will add this discussion to the agenda for an upcoming Executive Committee meeting.

VIII. 2:30 PM Final report Review: Concentration, Flux, and Trend Estimates with Uncertainty for Nutrients, Chloride, and Total Suspended Solids in Tributaries of Lake Champlain, 1990–2014, Laura Medalie, USGS

- a. Laura introduced the concept of the project. Biggest change from previous studies is that the data now reflect a 9-month window rather than a full 12-months due to challenges with winter conditions.
- b. Motion to approve the report with the request that the 9-month plots be included, by Breck, second by John K. all in favor. Jamie Shanley abstained.

IX. 3:00 PM Adjourn

TacMembers: Mike Winslow (VT EPScoR; TAC Chair), Jamie Shanley (USGS), Angela Shambaugh (VT DEC), Breck Bowden (UVM), Eric Perkins (EPA R1), Kevin Behm (Addison Co. RPC), Eric Young (Miner Institute), Bob Brower (NYS DAM), Laura DiPietro (VAAF), Jim Jutras (Essex Junction Water Dept.), John Kanoza (Clinton Co. DOH), Fred Dunlap (NYS DEC), Mary Jo Feuerbach, EPA R1), Jenn Callahan (VTRANS), Neil Kamman (VT DEC), Martin Mimeault (QC MDDELCC), Bernie Pientka (VT FWD), Bill Ardren (USFWS), Mark Malchoff (LC Sea Grant), Phone: Ed Snizek (NY APA)

Staff: Eric Howe, Meg Modley, Ryan Mitchell, Joshua Klavens

Guests: Roy Schiff (Milone and MacBroom), Evan Fitzgerald (Fitzgerald Environmental) Andrew Schroth (UVM), Laura Medalie (USGS), Blaine Hastings (VTDEC), Ethan Swift (VTDEC)