

**Lake Champlain Basin Program**  
***Draft Agenda - Executive Committee Meeting***  
**Friday, September 7, 2018 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

***CONFERENCE CALL MEETING - LCBP Office, Gordon Center House, Grand Isle, VT***

**Executive Committee:** Mario Paula (US EPA Region 2), John Krueger (HAPAC), Koon Tang (NYSDEC for Bob Stegemann), Bill Ardren (TAC; USFWS), Pierre Leduc (QC CAC), Vic Putman (NYS CAC), MaryJo Feuerbach (US EPA Region 1), Daria Mazey (USACE), Emily Boedecker (Chair; VTDEC), Lori Fisher (VT CAC; Lake Champlain Committee), Buzz Hoerr (E&O Chair)

**Staff:** LCBP: Jim Brangan, Matt Vaughan, Meg Modley, Ellen Kujawa, Ryan Mitchell, Eric Howe; VT DEC: Kari Dolan, Bethany Sargent, Jordan Geller; Fred Dunlap (NYSDEC); Jane Ceraso (NEIWPCC)

**1:00 PM Open conference line; record participants**

- **Introductions** around the room, conference call participants
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Approve Meeting Minutes from June 7, 2018
- Motion to approve meeting minutes with discussed revisions by John Krueger, second by Buzz Hoerr. Motion is carried; none opposed; no abstentions.
- MaryJo Feuerbach is pleased to introduce Bryan Dore as the new EPA Region 1 Lake Champlain Coordinator; he has attended his first TAC meeting and will be at the Steering Committee next week.
- Kari Dolan: Pleased to announced the hiring of Jordan Geller as a temporary assistant to Bethany Sargent.
- LCBP Update: The EPA appropriation agreement is in the works with NEIWPCC; Bryan Dore predicts it will be in NEIWPCC accounts by early next week. The NPS agreement will also be awarded soon. The GLFC application is nearly complete, and will likely be submitted in the next few weeks. LCBP received a request from VTDEC to assist their application with the ITRC (Interstate Technology Regulatory Council) to the EPA for harmful cyanobacteria blooms in the Lake Champlain basin; LCBP offered \$10,000 to help support this project if the proposal is accepted. LCBP has been supporting the Little Chazy tributary gage for several years and is currently wrapping up a three-year agreement. We are waiting for NYSDEC to determine whether they're able to support this gage but have not yet received a response. LCBP plans to set aside \$21,000 in the GLFC budget to support this gage for one additional year if NYSDEC is not able to support this gauge. If NYSDEC find the funds, the \$21,000 will be rolled back into the Enhanced BMP grant category.

The annual LCBP Local Grants RFP will be issued this month. The Rock River Geomorphic Assessment RFP has been released and applications are due back on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The CVNHP grant RFP has been released and applications will be due back October 1<sup>st</sup>. Enhanced BMP RFP will be released this fall. Additional RFPs for winter maintenance and TMDL outreach interpretation tool.

**1:15 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION: Advisory Committee Nominations, *Eric Howe***

**Note** – this agenda is a DRAFT. If you have suggestions regarding content, please communicate them to Eric Howe at [ehowe@lcbp.org](mailto:ehowe@lcbp.org).

- Motion to enter executive session by John Krueger, Pierre Leduc seconds. Motion is carried.
- **Potential ACTION ITEM:** Nomination of new Advisory Committee members for consideration by the Lake Champlain Steering Committee on September 11.
- **EXIT Executive Session**
- Motion to approve the nomination for interim chair of the TAC by Vic Putman; second by Buzz Hoerr; motion carried.
- Motion to approve the consideration of two additional TAC member appointments by the Steering Committee by Vic Putman; second by Buzz Hoerr; motion is carried.

### **2:15 PM FY19 Budget Process, LCBP Staff**

- Eric Howe reviewed the new Technical and Heritage Budget development processes and key priorities for these programs. This is the second year of the TAC using this technical procedure and the first for the HAPAC.
- The group agreed that the development process for the technical budget priorities is complicated and that LCBP should coordinate a joint-TAC and Steering Committee subcommittee to discuss the process.  
Technical Projects:
  - FY19 State priorities should have been submitted to LCBP by the end of August. There may be additional project concepts submitted that directly address the Vermont TMDL; these should be in to LCBP by September 15. This will give the TAC the opportunity to review these concepts and evaluate against other proposals submitted for consideration in the FY19 process.
  - Eric will circulate the technical priorities defined by the TAC this week to the Steering Committee before their September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.
 Heritage Projects:
  - Jim Brangan provided an overview of the Heritage proposal process. HAPAC will meet next week to define priorities for the RFP; the annual Heritage Summit will be at the Hilton Hotel in Burlington on November 5. Heritage projects tend to be focused on tourism seasons – next year will be the year of the salmon, and 2021 will be celebrate the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. We will also be requesting pre-proposals for our grants program for the first time.

### **3:15 PM LCBP Committee updates, Eric Howe**

#### LCBP Office Relocation:

Eric reviewed a set of scoring criteria to determine office relocation viability. These criteria will be presented to the Steering Committee at their September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Eric agreed to circulate the itemized utilities for the September 11 Steering Committee meeting. The relocation scoring criteria will be attached the summary of this meeting for reference. The discussion touched on weighting of certain criteria, costs for additional office space rental (including the Gordon Center House), and the environmental footprint of LCBP. These all are things that will need full discussion by this committee and the Steering Committee as this project moves forward. There is very little room for staff at the current facility, and no room to expand. Moving to Burlington would also allow for LCBP to increase its visibility. The Executive Committee asked that the LCBP staff also respond to the survey to provide their perspective on office space.

#### Development Committee:

**Note** – this agenda is a DRAFT. If you have suggestions regarding content, please communicate them to Eric Howe at [ehowe@lcbp.org](mailto:ehowe@lcbp.org).

Eric provided an update on a potential LCBP development committee. This committee is working to investigate other sources of funding beyond LCBP's usual appropriations from EPA, GLFC, and NPS. A committee met once this summer to have an initial discussion on this topic and had some possible ideas: USACE, USDA, embedding Lake Champlain into GLFC authorization (rather than simply from Senator Leahy's request), HUD, Canadian federal funding opportunities; private foundation funding (need to approach this carefully so we don't compete with fellow watershed organizations for funding). Eric will continue to coordinate these development committee meetings and welcomes additional Executive Committee participation. Tom Berry (Senator Leahy's office) will engage the Congressional Research Service to determine other potential federal opportunities. Eric also has been working to build and maintain connections with the rest of the Lake Champlain Basin congressional delegation, particularly Congressman Welch (D-VT) and Congresswoman Stefanik (R-NY), who were instrumental in gaining congressional funding for LCBP this year. Koon Tang noted that he looks forward to working with LCBP to reinforce congressional funding in the NY portion of the Basin. Eric also would like to connect with Pierre about Canadian opportunities for funding as well. Emily Boedecker noted that it is important to continue looking into the long term as we consider Senator Leahy's eventual retirement from the Senate; I also advise caution in looking for private funding sources and competing with other watershed groups.

#### **4:00 Adjourn**

#### **Anticipated Outputs for this meeting include:**

1. Approval of meeting summary from June 7, 2018 LCBP Executive Committee meeting
2. Committee nominations to Lake Champlain Steering Committee