

Lake Champlain Basin Program
Draft Minutes - Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday February 21, 2019 9:15 AM – 12:00 PM
LCBP Office, Gordon Center House, Grand Isle, VT

9:15 AM Welcome

- **Introductions** around the room, conference call participants
- **Executive Committee members:** MaryJo Feuerbach (EPA R1, Chair); Bob Stegemann (NYSDEC), Stefanos Bitzakidis (QC MDDELCC), Pierre Leduc (QC CAC), Buzz Hoerr (E&O Chair), Neil Kamman (Interim TAC Chair), Mario Paula (EPA R2), Matt Cosby (USACE), Brian Steinmuller (NYS Ag&Markets)
- **Staff:** LCBP: Eric Howe, Ellen Kujawa, Ryan Mitchell, Meg Modley Gilbertson, Jim Brangan, Colleen Hickey, Matthew Vaughan; NEIWPC: Jane Ceraso, NYSDEC: Fred Dunlap, EPA R1: Bryan Dore
- **Guests:** Shannon Thayer (University of Vermont Graduate student)

Emily Boedecker is on leave this week and a VT ANR representative was not available to attend the meeting. MaryJo Feuerbach agreed to serve as Chair for the meeting.

- **Congressional updates –**
 - Eric reported that the FY19 Appropriations Bill was signed into law recently. The EPA Appropriation through Section 120 of the Clean Water Act will be \$11 million; \$4.4 million will be for base LCBP priorities. \$6.6 million will be for implementation of the 2016 TMDL. \$7 million was approved for Lake Champlain through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission appropriation. These funds are split across several programs; LCBP should receive approximately \$2.0-2.5 million in the FY19 appropriation. National Park Service NHA funding distribution was not available at the time of the meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Approve Meeting Minutes from February 8, 2019 Executive Committee

- Motion By: Brian Steinmuller to approve as amended.
- Second by: Neil Kamman
- Discussion on the motion: Pierre Leduc noted that he recused himself from the grant awards vote due to a conflict of interest.
- Vote: all in favor.
- Abstentions: none.

9:30 AM FY19 LCBP Base Budget Review, Eric Howe

Eric reviewed the proposed LCBP FY19 budget, including the Key Functions, Heritage, Education and Outreach, and Technical budgets. Some staff coordination costs are increasing, due to increased travel demand and also staffing costs. NEIWPC costs also have increased; this is in part due to underbudgeting in recent years, so this increase is to bring support for this task up to reflect actual NEIWPC administrative costs for LCBP.

The committee requested that NEIWPC develop a matrix to articulate what NEIWPC tasks and costs are. Jane noted that Susan Sullivan will be attending the April Steering Committee meeting in Quebec and can talk about what NEIWPC's indirect rate is supporting and review the additional costs for administering the Program. Neil noted that TAC budget has increased substantially as well over the past several years, which brings additional administrative costs. Buzz noted the same for the

E&O budget. Buzz asked for trendlines reflecting NEIWPC costs over the past 10 years. Include NEIWPC indirect charges. Susan will present this information to the Steering Committee in April.

There was some discussion on the E&O proposed task, “Economic Valuation of Lake Champlain watershed”. Mario and Bob suggested that LCBP staff discuss this project with staff who worked on a similar project for the NYS reservoir system. That study found that if requirements for filtration went into effect, filtration would cost \$8-12 billion. The alternative is to assure well-managed non-point watersheds that preclude the need for the expensive filtration system. Consequently, NYC has programs aimed at maintaining a healthy watershed. This example could be used as a case study. Overall, this concept could help drive all of the Lake Champlain management programs, and not just those funded by LCBP. Includes land preservation and easements at town and private levels. Bob and Mario can send contact information for people who worked on. Ryan and Eric will draft up a paragraph to describe this project.

MaryJo noted that the core projects and positions also continue to increase, and it would be helpful to have an analysis illustrating these trends. Eric will provide this analysis for the Steering Committee in April.

10:30 AM LCBP 2019-2020 Meeting Schedule Review

Eric briefly reviewed the draft 2019-2020 meeting schedule for the LCBP Steering and Executive committees. MaryJo and Bob noted a couple of conflicts that Eric will try to address in a revised version to give to the Steering Committee in April.

11:00 EXECUTIVE SESSION: Grant Award Decisions (LCBP staff)

ACTION ITEM: Approve Meeting Minutes from February 8, 2019 Executive Committee

- Motion By: Brian Steinmuller to approve as amended.
 - Second by: Neil Kamman
 - Discussion on the motion: Pierre Leduc noted that he recused himself from the grant awards vote due to a conflict of interest.
 - Vote: all in favor.
 - Abstentions: none.
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- Review of applications for grant opportunities
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of Records of Decision for:
 - IJC Flood Mitigation Study – US Outreach Coordinator
 - Motion By: Neil Kamman to provide LCBP flexibility to renegotiate contract up to \$60,000 to allow for additional travel as needed during the projects.
 - Second by: Bob Stegemann.
 - Discussion on the motion: none
 - Vote: all in favor.
 - Abstentions: none.

- TMDL Tools for Everyone
 - Motion to approve Record of Decision by: Bob Stegemann
 - Second by: Brian Steinmuller
 - Discussion on the motion: none
 - Vote: all in favor.
 - Abstentions: none.

11:15 AM Adjourn

Outputs for this meeting include:

1. Approval of meeting summary from February 8, 2019 LCBP Executive Committee meeting
2. Approval of Records of Decision for the IJC Outreach Coordinator grant and the TMDL Tools for Everyone grant.

Upcoming Meetings:

March 21, 2019: LCBP Executive Committee (Full day, Grand Isle)
April 9-10, 2019: Lake Champlain Steering Committee (Auberge West Brome, QC)
June 6, 2019: Lake Champlain Steering Committee (TBD, VT)

Upcoming LCBP Events:

2019 Love the Lake Series! [February 21](#), [February 28](#), [March 7](#), [March 14](#). All presentations are from 6:30-7:30 PM at the LCBP offices in Grand Isle, VT

[World Water Day 2019](#): March 21, 4:00-6:30 PM, Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center

[North American Lake Management Society Annual Symposium](#), November 11-15, Burlington, VT