

Lake Champlain Basin Program
Draft Agenda - Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday January 17, 2019 9:45 AM – 3:00 PM
LCBP Office, Gordon Center House, Grand Isle, VT

10:00 AM Welcome

- **Participants:**
 - Neil Kamman (Interim TAC chair), John Krueger (HAPAC Chair), Dan Dutcher (VT AOT), Thea Wurzburg (Cong. Welch), Vic Putman (NY CAC), Tom Berry (Sen. Leahy)
 - LCBP Staff: Meg Modley, Matt Vaughan, Ryan Mitchell, Ellen Kujawa, Jane Ceraso (NEIWPCC, Phone), Fred Dunlap (NYS DEC, Phone)
 - Phone: Emily Boedecker (VT ANR, Chair), Joe Zalewski (NYS DEC for Bob Stegemann), Daria Mazey (USACE)
- **No partner updates, postponed until February 21st meeting**
- **Brief announcements**
 - Thea W: She started with Congressman Welch in his VT office in November, and worked in his DC office for 2 years prior to coming to VT. Her role covers many issues, including environment, energy, women's issues, and nutrition.
 - Tom B: We have a Farm Bill. Shutdown is still effect. Anyone's guess on when it will end, but we have seen some piecemeal re-openings. Bills in the House have been passed back to Senate.

ACTION ITEM: Approve Meeting Minutes from November 29, 2018 Executive Committee

- Motion to Approve By: John K
- Second by: Neil K
- Discussion on the motion: Neil offered a few minor edits, and for clarification on the Technical budget. Neil requested further discussion before the May or June TAC meetings when FY20 budget will be discussed.
- Vote: All in favor. None opposed
- Abstentions: Dan D.

10:15 AM Education and Outreach FY19 budget priorities update, Buzz Hoerr, E&O Cmte Chair and Colleen Hickey, LCBP

- Buzz and Colleen reviewed the E&O FY19 projects for consideration
 - 7 of 9 committee members voted in the committee ranking process. EandO grants came out top on list. Wanted to increase large grant number by \$80,000. Seems appropriate to fund additional larger grants. The rest of the grants were ranked in the following order:
 - Teacher training – smaller dollar amount, but additional workshops and support for World Water Day in 2020.
 - High school watershed steward certification Year 3. FY18 funding was enough to get the project off the ground. Funding will allow for teacher stipends in schools who are helping recruit students.
 - Healthy soils Phase 3. This program has developed into a partnership similar to CBEI. Will allow for trainings targeting landscape companies and condominium associations.

- Bioengineering and shoreline BMPs – proposed by VT DEC as a part of lakeshore program currently managed by VT DEC staff. The program encourages lakeshore landowners to reduce pollution.
- Clean water videos – proposed by VT and NY DEC to continue the LCBP video series with a specific interest in highlighting benefits of clean water for various sectors.
- Outreach stewards. Will be hiring on same timeframe as Boat Launch Stewards with FY18 funds. Will allow us to have 3 stewards at farmers markets, special events, etc. At least one dedicated to NY events. Will help guide training of counselors in YMCA camps. FY19 funding would allow for similar work in 2020.
- Streamwise project – Like lakewise, but for streams. Proposed by VT and NY DEC. Materials developed in VT, but will be applicable basin-wide. Want to get people to pay attention to riparian buffers.
- Economic valuation of clean water / healthy watershed. Identified in OFA to place a dollar value on clean water, watersheds, etc. This would include different sectors such as tourism, agriculture, timber, etc. Task proposal will need to be crafted with feedback from TAC, EandO, and HAPAC as well as other partners experienced in this field. Good opportunity to bring economic data all into one place.
- Artist in residence. This would be a second year of funding to continue the program that will kick off later this year to link science and art. Current model we are considering is to develop a request for pre-proposals for this project because we have many art institutions and organizations in the Basin. HAPAC also has been interested in this concept. Tom Berry noted that the Leahy summit is April 5. This year's theme is confluence of science and art – they've already started doing this work. Suggest putting this program forward ASAP and see how it could connect with that effort. Could link to multiple LCBP committees because of link to science interpretation, heritage, outreach and communication, etc. Multiple Executive Committee members showed interest in this project and recognize that it is a small portion of the total proposed EandO budget presented today.
- Ryan shared a video to demonstrate the Generator World Water Day project where students learned about watershed issues and created cool art projects with lasers.

11:00 AM AIS barriers on Lake Champlain canal systems, Meg Modley, LCBP

- Champlain Canal Barrier Feasibility Study update
 - Meg provided an update on the Champlain canal barrier study with USACE, including the project schedule – draft existing condition report, stakeholder survey, draft alternatives report (this is the real feasibility study). Targeting early Spring 2019 for alternatives workshop.
 - Tom B asked if stakeholders who would be impacted by invasive species be surveyed in addition to users of the canal? Yes. The survey will target both types of users, and it does consider the no-action alternative. If no action is an alternative, suggest involving fishing groups and other users of the fishery.
 - USACE coordinated a site reconnaissance trip in October. Great mixture of people to see the canal, talk to lock tenders, etc. Looked at possible flooding, how each lock could be included in possible solutions, etc. Any barrier action would keep the canal open.
 - Very complex hydrologic system. Underground pipes, bypasses, old canal structure, wetlands, etc.

- How does hydro barrier work? Some type of lift up and over. Not really looking into other types of barriers because all other types are generally taxa-specific.
- Discussion about need for reference to IJC for feasibility study for an AIS barrier on Chambly Canal/Richelieu River system
 - Could be good opportunity to bring in additional resources to this project.
 - Daria noted that this is within the scope of WRDA 542 authority. Could have unused authorized funding ready to go for this project. USACE could study the problem in Canada as long as the benefit is in the US. Could not construct anything Canada, but could participate in design, study, etc.

12:00 PM LUNCH

12:45 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION: Grant Award Decisions

John K motion to move into Exec. Vic seconds.

- Review of Applications to local and technical grant opportunities
- **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of Record of Decisions for:
 - Pollution Prevention and Habitat Conservation (30 minutes)
 - postponed
 - Enhanced BMP pollution reduction (30 minutes)
 - postponed
 - Organizational Support (20 minutes)
 - Winter Maintenance technical grant (15 minutes)
 - AIS spread prevention grants (15 minutes)
 - IJC Outreach Coordinator (10 minutes)
 - Postponed
 - Motion to approved Org Support ROD as presented by Neil K, John K second. All in favor. None opposed. Vic P. abstained.
 - Motion to approve winter road maintenance ROD as presented by Dan D. John K seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Vic P. abstained.
 - Motion to approve 2nd AIS spread prevention ROD as presented as funds are available by Neil K, Dan D second. All in favor. None opposed. Vic P. abstained.

3:00 PM Adjourn

Outputs for this meeting include:

1. Approval of meeting summary from November 29, 2018 LCBP Executive Committee meeting
2. Approval of Record of Decisions for Organizational Support, AIS 2018 Grant Awards, Winter Maintenance RFP.

Upcoming Meetings:

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