



FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS, INC.
MINUTES - NINTH ANNUAL MEETING
JULY 26, 2010

The ninth annual meeting of The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, Inc. was held at The Steak House in Berlin, Vermont on July 26, 2010. President Perry Thomas called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Officers and Board members in attendance included President Perry Thomas, Vice-President Andy Dales, Treasurer Judy Davis, Secretary Ginny Garrison, and Board members Art Brooks, Nancy Darrah, Al Muenster and Don Weaver. Also in attendance were representatives from 23 lakes and ponds and representatives from the VT Agency of Natural Resources' Water Quality Division.

President Perry Thomas welcomed member associations with words of appreciation for ongoing efforts to promote lake and pond conservation. She checked to make sure all present had received an information packet at registration and reviewed the materials included in the packet: a printout of the newly-revised FOVLAP website homepage, several information pieces about the importance of restoring/protecting shoreline vegetation including a "Got Buffers?" bookmark, the agenda for this meeting, and a meeting evaluation form. She encouraged everyone to consider whether the whole-group format of the Annual Meeting continues to work well and to provide specific feedback about the meeting's format on the evaluation form.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes from the 2009 annual meeting were reviewed. Ginny Garrison read aloud page 2 of the minutes, as the printer mistakenly missed that page in the minutes handed out to attendees. John Washburn moved that the minutes be approved as written. Don Weaver seconded the motion and the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Judy Davis distributed a financial report showing income and expenses for calendar years 2008 and 2009 and the budget for calendar year 2010. She was unable to provide the current balances in FOVLAP's accounts due to the recent changeover of the Chittenden Bank to People's United Bank. Due to website changes, she was unable to access the information electronically. She noted that FOVLAP's grant from the state subsidizes a portion of the cost of the Annual Meeting. Don Weaver commented that he would like a summary of the Treasurer's Report available on FOVLAP's website. John Washburn preferred that the Treasurer's Report be printed and available to members. Reggie Lamb, a past FOVLAP treasurer, agreed with John. He felt it is easy to misunderstand or misuse financial information and a report is not complete without explanation. Treasurer Judy Davis noted that organizations generally present their financial information to the public in an annual report, which would contain additional information to explain the figures. John Washburn moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Joe Ciccolo seconded the motion and the motion passed.

BYLAWS AMENDMENT: President Perry Thomas explained the proposed Bylaws amendment that was sent to members with the announcement of the Annual Meeting and was also printed at the bottom of the meeting agenda. As currently written, the Bylaws do not provide for individual members. The Board recommended that a Bylaws change be approved to add Affiliate Members, who could serve on the Board of Directors but would not otherwise have voting rights. Don Weaver moved that the Bylaws change be approved as proposed. Andy Dales seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The approved changes are included at the end of these minutes.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS: Andy Dales, chair of FOVLAP's Nominations Committee, explained that FOVLAP has four officers with 2-year terms, with two officer positions up for election each year. There are also nine directors with 3-year terms, with three director positions up for election each year. This year, the remaining one year of two additional director positions are open due to the resignations of Bill Fisk and John Larrabee due to health concerns. Including nominations from the floor, Andy presented the following slate of nominations to fill these positions:

President: Perry Thomas, a 2-year term (2010-2012), re-elect
Treasurer: Judy Davis, a 2-year term (2010-2012), re-elect

Directors:

3-year terms (2010-2013):

Art Brooks (Lake Willoughby), re-elect
Joe Cicollo (Lake Elmore), replacing Nancy Darrah
Bruce Durgin (Lake Morey), replacing Laura Zantzing

1-year term (2010-2011)

Ron Dreher (Lake St. Catherine), replacing Bill Fisk
Dick Simpson (Lake Willoughby), replacing John Larrabee

Carry-over officers and directors are:

Andy Dales, Vice-President, term expires 2011
Ginny Garrison, Secretary, term expires 2011
Al Muenster, Director, term expires 2011
Greg Allen, Director, term expires 2012
Cindy Swanson, Director, term expires 2012
Don Weaver, Director, term expires 2012

The nominations were closed. Don Weaver moved that the slate be accepted as presented and that the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate. Al Muenster seconded the motion, and the slate was voted as presented.

Perry Thomas presented outgoing Director Nancy Darrah with a photograph by Ray Pilcher.

VTDEC/WQD LAKES AND PONDS SECTION REPORT: Susan Warren, VTDEC Lakes and Ponds Section Chief, introduced the Water Quality Division staff in attendance – Ann Bove, Leslie Matthews, Amy Picotte, and Misha Cetner. Susan made the following announcements:

- Milly Archer from the VT League of Cities and Towns was in attendance and would be available during the day to talk with folks about shoreland buffer ordinances.
- The Summer 2010 issue of *Out of the Blue*, the Division's newsletter, has an article by Perry Thomas on the history of lake conservation, based on her presentation at FOVLAP's Annual Seminar in June.
- Act 46, the aquatic invasive species bill passed by the Legislature last year, authorized the development of an invasive species rapid response protocol and general permit. The Division held a public meeting on the rapid response general permit in June, and the permit should be approved soon. It will enable the Department of Environmental Conservation and/or the Department of Fish and Wildlife to take quick action if a new invasive species is found in Vermont. To use the permit they will need to show an emergency – that there is a significant threat to the state.

VTDEC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM REPORT: Leslie Matthews and Ann Bove, Environmental Scientists, VTDEC, gave updates on the state's invasive species management activities:

- There have been no reports of new aquatic invasive species populations in Vermont this year!

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- They are cautiously optimistic about the control of variable-leaved watermilfoil in Halls Lake (first found in 2008). They hand-pulled 50 cubic feet of plant material in 2008, 5 cubic feet of plant material in 2009, and to-date in 2010 only 40 plants have been found and hand-pulled.
- Variable-leaved watermilfoil was also found in Missisquoi Bay of Lake Champlain in 2009. They are still surveying the large bay, but are hopeful that the population is only in three areas in the southern end of the Bay. Floating fragments were found in a new area on the eastern shore near Quebec this summer, but so far no rooted population has been found there. Spread prevention efforts have increased on the Bay.
- Act 46, which included a new Invasive Species Transport Law, is now in effect. It is now illegal to transport **any** aquatic plants on the outside of boats, trailers, etc. Previously only Eurasian watermilfoil and water chestnut were prohibited plants.
- Two new publications are now available:
 - a. The existing invasive species rack card has been revised. It is now two-sided and looks similar to New York State's so it is consistent on both shores of Lake Champlain. It is given out by Greeter Programs and is available in access area bulletin board racks.
 - b. A new Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species in Lake Champlain has been completed by the Lake Champlain Basin Program. It will be distributed to all Vermont Invasive Patrollers (VIPs).
- The Lake Champlain Basin Program received funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to pilot a boat washing program in the Lake Champlain basin using car wash facilities. A map of cooperating car wash locations is being handed out at access areas.
- There have been three Vermont Invasive Patroller Program workshops to-date this year. A 4th workshop is scheduled for August 20th on Lake Iroquois. Leslie is looking at adding quality control visits every three years. During the visit DEC staff would assist in a survey and help volunteers brush up on identification skills.
- There is a display of various plants and animals, both invasive and native, at this meeting, as well as a mystery item to be identified. A prize will be presented to the winner of a drawing from the names of people with the correct answer.
- The question was asked that since so many of Vermont's aquatic invasive species originate from Lake Champlain, could other lakes get Lake Champlain money for spread prevention programs? Ann responded that the Lake Champlain Basin Program's federal money helps fund Lake Stewards on Lake Champlain who seek to prevent invasive species from leaving the lake on boat trailers and other equipment. In addition, the federal money funds invasive species publications used by programs statewide.
- Leslie was asked to look into the certificates that Canada requires for boats to launch at access areas.
- A question was asked regarding a new invasive algae that was found in the Gihon River this year. Didymo was found in the Gihon and the Passumpsic River this year. It has been found in recent years in the Connecticut, White, Mad and Battenkill as well. Leslie explained the new law that will be in effect next year that prohibits the use of felt-soled boots and waders in Vermont waters. The purpose of the law is to reduce the likelihood that species such as didymo will be spread to new waters.
- A question was asked regarding whether information on our programs is shared with Canada. Leslie responded that it is, through both the Lake Champlain Basin Program and the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel (which includes the Eastern Canada provinces). Canadians have attended some of Leslie's VIP workshops. Al Muenster commented that Canadian Customs inspected his boat before he could enter Canada, including the felt boards on the trailer. However, he was not checked by US Customs coming back into the US. Ann noted that this is a good place to increase dialogue.
- Don Weaver noted that FOVLAP no longer has a representative going to Lake Champlain Basin Program meetings. Jo Wright used to go. Meg Modley is the person to contact at the LCBP. FOVLAP needs to appoint a new representative.

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LAKE REPORTS: Lake Reports were given by 3 lakes and ponds at this time, while Amy Picotte was setting up for the next presentation. These included reports by Lake Willoughby, South Pond, and Shadow Lake.

PLENARY SPEAKER: VERMONT LAKE SCORE CARD <http://www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes.htm>

Amy Picotte, Environmental Scientist with the VT DEC's Lakes and Ponds Program, gave an interesting presentation on the tremendous amount of data that is available on Vermont lakes and described an exciting new way that is being developed to present that data to the public. The Lay Monitoring Program is in its 32nd year with volunteers weekly throughout the summer taking Secchi disk transparency readings and collecting samples for total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a analyses. She briefly described the other DEC programs that gather lake data as well.

A new Vermont Lake Score Card will be used to present this data to the public. The Score Card is graphically similar to a Secchi disk, with four colored quadrants. One quadrant shows a lake's Water Quality Index, based on data from the Lay Monitoring Program, Spring Phosphorus Program, and Lake Assessment Program. A second quadrant shows the Aquatic Invasive Species Index, presented as a yes/no depending on the presence or absence of invasive species in the lake. A third quadrant is the Atmospheric Deposition Index, based on mercury concentrations and sensitivity to acid rain. It uses the most threatening of these two pollutants on the lake, which is generally the mercury concentration. The last quadrant is the Shoreland and Lake Habitat Index, based on data from the DEC's Littoral Habitat Study, the National Lakes Assessment, and the University of Vermont's GIS Lakeshore Development maps. If more than 75% of the shoreline is lawn to the lake, this quadrant will be red. If 50 – 75% of the shoreline is lawn to the lake, the quadrant will be yellow. If less than 50% of the shoreline is lawn to the lake, the quadrant will be blue.

So far 375 lakes have been scored using this system. The scores will be presented to the public using Google Earth. There will be a link to the score cards on the DEC website (and hopefully on FOVLAP's). Links from the score cards will take readers to the score card background, a water quality summary for the lake, a checklist of lake protection activities to improve the score, and a list of the plant species in the lake. They hope to have more specific data available in the future, such as a list of fish species in each lake and a link to depth charts.

LUNCH

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Ginny Garrison, chair of FOVLAP's Legislative Affairs Committee, handed out a 2010 Legislative Affairs Committee Report (attached). A key bill that passed into law this year is Act 110, which began as a regulatory bill requiring buffers along lakes and rivers and ended up being non-regulatory but providing for technical assistance and financial incentives to towns to adopt municipal shoreland bylaws. A Shoreland Management Program and a River Corridor Management Program are established in the Agency of Natural Resources. Of particular significance are the findings included in the legislation regarding the importance of shoreland buffers. Another bill that passed this year prohibits the use of felt-soled boots and waders in Vermont waters as of April 1, 2011. This law is designed to help slow the spread of fish diseases and nuisance invasive plants and animals. The Department of Fish and Wildlife renamed the access area on Big Salem Lake to the David H. Wood Memorial Access this year in honor of Dave Wood, a former FOVLAP Director and past chair of FOVLAP's Legislative Affairs Committee.

Ginny also described her work representing FOVLAP on an Advisory Committee helping the US Environmental Protection Agency nationally publicize the results of the National Lakes Assessment and the need for shoreland protection and the establishment of lakeshore vegetative buffers. She has participated in several conference calls to discuss and review initiatives. US EPA is developing

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materials for a website, establishing lines of communication with the National Association of Realtors and National Association of Home Builders, and is interviewing several states with impressive shoreland management programs (including Vermont) to determine if these states have programs that could be piloted in other states.

PLENARY SPEAKER: NATIONAL LAKES ASSESSMENT

http://www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes/docs/lp_mon-natlakesurv.pdf

Neil Kamman, Manager of the Monitoring, Assessment and Planning Program, VTDEC, gave an engaging presentation titled *National Lakes Assessment – Water Quality and Ecological Integrity of Lakes and Reservoirs. Using NLA Findings to Guide Vermont Actions*. Neil explained that the purpose of the National Lakes Assessment was to determine the status of lake water quality across the country using consistent methods, indicators, and assessment thresholds. The sampling was conducted in 2007 on randomly selected lakes including 11 in Vermont. Vermont supplemented the sampling with 39 additional lakes for a total of 50 lakes sampled in the state. With this number, the findings can be considered to be representative of all the lakes in the state. A key finding nationally was that when shoreland habitat is poor, lakes are three times more likely to have poor biological integrity. 9% of Vermont lakes have poor shoreland habitat (loss of trees). 71% of Vermont's lakes have moderate lakeshore disturbance (retaining walls, houses, docks, etc.) It is possible to have a lot of disturbance and still have good habitat if buffers are maintained. The policy implications of the National Lakes Assessment are the need to use low impact development approaches on lakeshores, and that lakeshore protection initiatives need to be supported.

A meeting attendee commented that given the results, it is strange that we hear so much about acid rain, but not about lakeshore habitat. Another attendee asked how we can get the clout to protect lakeshores. In Vermont, except for Act 250, which affects a very small percentage of lakeshores, only town zoning has jurisdiction over buffers. Neil recommended working with Milly Archer from the VT League of Cities and Towns to help get shoreland zoning adopted in your town. Also, under Act 110, incentives are being developed to encourage towns to adopt shoreland zoning.

LAKE REPORTS: Lake reports were given by 16 lake associations following Neil's presentation, including Lake Seymour, Salem Lakes, Lake St. Catherine/Little Lake, Peacham Pond, Lake Parker, Lake Morey, Miles Pond, Little Hosmer Pond, Lake Iroquois, Lake Hortonia/Burr Pond, Halls Lake, Lake Elmore, Lake Eden, Northern Lake Champlain Advisory Committee, Pelots Bay Restoration Association (Lake Champlain), and Caspian Lake. In addition, representatives from Woodbury Lake, Harveys Lake, Lake Groton, and Curtis Pond were present at the meeting but did not give lake reports. This year the reports focused on recent lake association projects, particularly those related to lakeshore buffer protection and restoration, town collaboration with lake projects, and the relationship between the lay monitors on the lakes and the lake associations. To encourage lakeshore buffers, one association conducts plant swaps at meetings. Others are working with their local Natural Resources Conservation District and other groups to replant shoreland vegetation. One association is using "goose discouragement" as the impetus to get landowners to plant vegetation. Obtaining grants for greeter programs has caused several lake associations to collaborate with their local town. One association collaborates with other organizations in their town so that each publicizes the others' events. Some associations post the lay monitoring data on their websites, and some have a review of the results at their annual association meeting. Several associations are conducting watershed surveys to identify pollution sources. There were several "saves" by access area greeter programs, including a zebra mussel at Lake Willoughby and Eurasian watermilfoil at Lake Salem (on 8 boats so far this year!) and Shadow Lake. Lake Elmore had 27 nuisance geese removed. It is always amazing to hear the amount of work being done by dedicated volunteers in lake associations throughout the state to protect our lakes.

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ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP REPORT: Art Brooks, a member of FOVLAP's Scholarship Committee, described FOVLAP's Environmental Studies Scholarship, which is managed through VSAC. This is the fourth year FOVLAP has offered a \$500 scholarship to a student pursuing a major in environmental science/water quality protection. There were seven applicants this year, although none had a specific major in environmental science/water quality protection. A landscape architecture student from Lake Region High School was named as our scholarship recipient. It was felt that a major in landscape architecture is in keeping with FOVLAP's work to promote the establishment of shoreland buffers on lakes statewide.

PRIZES: Jeri Berg won maple syrup and maple recipes for correctly identifying the mystery aquatic plant/animal. It was a bryozoan. Four door prizes made by Vermont artists were awarded – a mug, a duck art print, a fish art print, and greeting cards.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Garrison, Secretary

Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds

Bylaws Change Approved July 26, 2010

Article III MEMBERSHIP

Any bona-fide, active Lake or Pond Association, which is partially or completely within the Vermont borders, is eligible for membership. Lakes and Ponds with no Association may have one voting representative upon payment of dues. Any individual is eligible for Affiliated membership and will receive Federation benefits but not voting rights. Affiliates are eligible to serve and vote on the Board of Directors if elected by the membership.

DUES. The annual dues shall be fixed from time to time by the Board of Directors. Any Association or Affiliate may become a member upon payment of annual dues and shall continue as a member for succeeding years provided annual dues for each such succeeding year are paid on or before the Annual Meeting of such year.

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