

FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS, INC.
MINUTES—SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING
JULY 28, 2008

The seventh annual meeting of The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, Inc. was held at the Montpelier Elks Club on July 28, 2008. President Jackie Sprague welcomed all participants and called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. Officers and board members were introduced, including President Jackie Sprague, Vice President Andy Dales, Treasurer Reggie Lamb, Secretary Jo Wright, and Board members Dave Wood, Bill Fisk, Cliff Aikens, Perry Thomas, and Don Weaver. In attendance were representatives from 24 lakes and ponds and representatives from the VT Agency of Natural Resources Lakes and Ponds Division.

REPORTS:

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The secretary's minutes from the 2007 annual meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Reggie Lamb reported that the net worth of the Federation as of July 26, 2008, is \$7,699.25. Current membership includes 17 lakes and ponds, and 26 individual memberships. Some individuals whose lake associations have not paid membership dues have become members.

NEC-NALMS: The Federation, in conjunction with the VT DEC, sponsored the 2008 New England Lakes Conference June 13-14 at the Lake Morey Inn and Resort. It was well organized and well attended, with ninety-two people registered. The Federation should see a net of about \$200 from the event.

VSAC: Jackie reported that Shane Putnam has been named as our second scholarship recipient. This is the second year we have offered a \$500 scholarship to a student pursuing a major in environmental science/water quality protection.

LEGISLATIVE GRANT: John Washburn reported that a state legislative grant of \$2,500 to FOVLAP has been put in the annual legislative budget. Thanks, John.

VT ANR LAKES AND PONDS SECTION REPORTS: Susan Warren announced the retirement of Ginny Garrison as head of the Lakes and Ponds Section, which she created in 1976. She has been an advocate for our lakes and ponds for more than 30 years, and we are fortunate that she will be joining our FOVLAP board. Susan also announced that the lakes and ponds section will be retained in the new restructuring of the Agency of Natural Resources. Leslie Matthews reported that she organized an access greeter training program, which was held in May and was well attended. Her Vermont Invasive Patroller Program is in its second year, and she is holding VIP training sessions this summer. Kellie Merrill continues to monitor habitat health in shallow water areas in our lakes and ponds. Susan passed out updated copies of the Compendium of Lake and Pond Association Projects (2002-2007). Her updates include information gathered from lake reports presented at our 2007 annual meeting.

EMAIL GROUP: Jackie led a discussion of the best way for lake and pond folks to communicate via email. Don Bordner created a list last year which facilitated communication between members. This has been very useful, but some people expressed

interest in a Yahoo group, which provides more privacy, and the ability to receive emails on a personally designated schedule. It was decided that we should focus on one type of system, and a straw vote suggested that most people preferred to be part of a Yahoo group. Leslie Matthews offered to moderate and set up the group, if Retta Dunlap is not interested. Thanks to Don for his work in putting the contact list together.

PLENARY SPEAKER: Rich Langdon, Aquatic Biologist, VT DEC gave a fascinating presentation titled *Vermont Fishes-How Long Have They Been Here? (and where did they come from?)*. His presentation included information about the geological history of Vermont and the history of our native and non-native fish populations.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

Don Weaver announced the Seventh International Northern Lake Champlain Basin Program Coalition Event to be held August 9 at Shore Acres in North Hero.

Jackie reported on the NEC-NALMS Conference at Lake Morey. The program organization and attendance were excellent, as was the 30 year celebration of lay monitoring in Vermont. Feedback from other states was positive. Lake Morey was a great place to hold the conference. Susan reported that there will be no New England Chapter meeting next summer, since the North American Lake Management Society will be holding its meeting in Connecticut in late October, 2009.

NOMINATIONS: Andy Dales announced that due to the by-law revision creating term limit expirations for officers last year, the usual 3 year term expirations, and resignations, we have a large number of positions to be filled this year. He presented the following slate of nominations:

President: Perry Thomas, a 2 year term (2008-2010), replacing Jackie Sprague

Treasurer: Judy Davis, a 2 year term (2008-2010), replacing Reggie Lamb

Directors:

3 year terms (2008-2011):

John Larrabee, replacing Stewart Dittmeier

Virginia Garrison, replacing Patsy Rockwell

Bill Fisk, term expires 2008, re-elect

2 year term (2008-2010)

Nancy Darrah, replacing Don Hendrich

Art Brooks, replacing Perry Thomas

1 year term (2008-2009)

Reggie Lamb, replacing Jeannie Jenkins

Don Weaver, appointed by the board until annual election to replace Kingsley Boyd

Carry-over officers and directors are:

Andy Dales, Vice President, term expires 2009

Joanna Wright, Secretary, term expires 2009

Dave Wood, Director, term expires 2009

Cliff Aikens, Director, term expires 2010

The nominations were closed and one vote placed for the slate, which was approved.

Thanks to the nominating committee for their hard work in putting together the slate of nominations.

John Washburn recognized Jackie Sprague's dedication and service to the lakes and ponds of Vermont. She has been an advocate and impassioned voice for over 20 years, and the Federation acknowledged this service by presenting her with a certificate proclaiming her as President Emeritus and offering her a lifetime membership in The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, Inc. She was also presented a CD of Eric Hansen's loon recordings and a Robert Lyons photo of Harvey's Lake. Susan Warren read a letter Governor Douglas wrote recognizing her achievements and service. Perry Thomas spoke about the honor she felt in being asked to follow in Jackie's footsteps. She plans to support all in pursuing the goals established at the strategic planning session, and to strengthen FOVLAP as the voice for the lakes and ponds of Vermont. The four committees set up at the planning session include membership development and outreach, which she felt could be advanced if each member could bring one new member next year, legislative affairs, PR and Outreach, and Lake Issues, with continuing involvement with and guidance from the "staties", Lakes and Ponds Section staff. She also reaffirmed the mission statement. John Washburn commended Reggie Lamb for his dedication and skill, as he transitions from treasurer to director. He has been the solid "bean counter" behind the Federation. Reggie looks forward to helping Judy Davis as she takes over as Treasurer. Thanks, Reggie!

INVASIVE SPECIES REPORT: Leslie Matthews reported on the didymo algae that had not been found in the Northeast until it was discovered last year in Vermont. It has a potential to alter ecosystems, but most lakes and ponds should not be affected, since it prefers cold, flowing water, with a rocky substrate. The state is focusing on education of anglers about the importance of cleaning their gear and waders. Other invasives include rusty crayfish, which is spreading, and VHS, a fish disease which is moving in our direction, and which led to new baitfish rules. Asian clams could become a problem similar to zebra mussels. They have been found in the Champlain canal.

LUNCH

SHORELINE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PANEL:

Introductions:

Rich Baker, Maine DEP Zoning Coordinator--Maine has an ordinance which requires shoreland buffer zones 100 feet from ponds and rivers and 75 feet from streams. He has been the coordinator since 1985.

Kellie Merrill, VT Lakes and Ponds Section--She has done monitoring since 2005 on Vermont lakes, conducting studies on the effects of development on littoral habitat. She plans to analyze her data this winter.

Milly Archer—water quality coordinator for the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. She helps towns and cities who want to put protective language into their ordinances. The state of Vermont doesn't require riparian buffer zones, but towns can enact protective ordinances.

John Anderson--member of the Vermont House of Representatives from Montpelier since April 2007. He is an environmental lawyer, a Lake Elmore

camp owner, and is on the water resources committee which worked on a riparian buffer bill that failed in the last legislative session.

Presentations:

Kellie spoke about the results of lake assessments done between 2001-2004, which noted increasing threats from development with no specific documentation. Shallow water zone studies provide early proof of data trends, and quantitative studies were begun in 2005. States like Maine with protection laws can offer examples to Vermont.

Rich Baker offered handouts and a slide presentation about the Maine Shoreland Zoning ordinances, which were first adopted in 1974, and are now stronger than when first adopted. (Cliff Aikens announced that the town of Barnard is now adopting the Maine ordinances.)

Milly has created a form that the VT League of Cities and Towns has available for towns to modify and use.

John expressed his belief that buffer zones are essential for the health of the environment. Vermont will have to face the issues, and we need to figure out where to start. The focus in the next legislative session will be less aggressive in order to create that a buffer bill can pass. Questions of enforcement ability and costs led to his statement that we don't need to know enforcement will be perfect before we enact laws. The cost of not doing anything is always more than the cost of doing something.

LAKE REPORTS:

Lake Reports were given by 23 lakes and ponds, including Caspian Lake, Cedar Lake (Monkton Pond), Lake Elmore, Halls Lake, Northern Lake Champlain Advisory Committee, Lake Eden, Lake Harvey, Lake Groton, Lake Iroquois, Lake Morey, Lake Parker, Little Hosmer Pond, Maidstone Lake, Miles Pond, Peacham Pond, Salem Lake, Seymour Lake, Lake Memphremagog Watershed, Silver Lake (Barnard), South Pond, Westmore Association (Lake Willoughby), Woodbury Lake, and Shadow Lake. It is always interesting to hear what other groups are doing to celebrate their special lake, what challenges they face, and what they are doing to prevent or reduce the spread of invasive nuisance species. Many lake representatives spoke about their involvement in lake monitoring, VIP, and access greeter programs. Many expressed their concern over shoreline erosion and reported that water clarity has been good until recent heavy rainstorms. Several lakes reported transitions to new boards and directors, and Lake Iroquois reported the formation of a formal lake association. Loons are holding their own on a number of lakes, and geese seem to have suddenly increased and become a nuisance on many lakes. Creative fundraising, educational and social events were reported. Reports will be included and made available in a folder, and Susan Warren will incorporate reports in her next update of the Compendium of VT Lake and Pond Association Projects. Thanks to all for their volunteer efforts and caring for their special lake.

DOOR PRIZES AND PRESENTATIONS:

Jackie expressed thanks to retiring board member Patsy Rockwell and thanked her with a Ray Richer photo. She also offered kudos and thanks to Ginny Garrison for her support and encouragement during the formation of the Federation.

Door prizes: A Green Mountain Coffee Roasters sun catcher went to Chuck Dobson and a package of Green Mountain Coffee went to Reggie Lamb.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20, and all were wished safe travels home.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Wright, Secretary