

FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS, INC  
MINUTES--FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING  
JULY 24, 2006  
ELKS CLUB—MONTPELIER, VT

The fifth annual meeting of The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, Inc. was held at the Elks Club in Montpelier on July 24, 2006. The meeting was preceded by registration and coffee. President Jackie Sprague called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Officers and members of the Board of Directors were introduced, and attendees from 23 lakes and ponds as well as representatives from the DEC introduced themselves.

The secretary's minutes from the 2005 annual meeting were approved, and the treasurer's report was accepted. Treasurer Reggie Lamb announced a successful June Lake Seminar, and an account balance of approximately \$4,500. There are 25 lakes and 9 individual members so far this year, and 27 other lakes that have been members in the past. Discussion followed about how to make contact and encourage participation. It is always difficult to keep contact lists up to date, and we do ask for updates in newsletters and registration/membership forms. A suggestion was made that it would be helpful to ask for forwarding information. We have sent letters and made phone calls in the past, and will continue to share contact information with the DEC Lakes and Ponds Division. Susan Warren informed us that the Clean and Clear website has information about lake and watershed contacts at [vtwaterquality.org](http://vtwaterquality.org).

**BUSINESS MEETING:**

Old business: John Washburn gave an update on the legislative grant to FOVLAP. In the fall of 2004 the board applied to the House Appropriations Committee and we were given \$2,500 in the spring of 2005. This spring we were given \$1,500. We will meet with the appropriations committee again this year to request an increase to \$2,500. The grant monies have helped buy materials for the notebook produced by Susan Warren for each lake, have helped offset seminar expenses, have allowed us to pay presenters, and have supported conference attendance and additional newsletters. Next spring, FOVLAP will be offering a \$500 VSAC scholarship to encourage the study of and careers in the disciplines of aquatic environment, water resources education, and limnology.

New Business: We discussed the need for updates to our website that would allow us to get current information and news to members. John suggested that we form a membership committee. Retta Dunlap from Greenwood Lake volunteered to make phone contacts-- more help would be welcome.

Nominations and elections: Bill Casey, whose term on the board of directors expired this year, was recognized for his participation on the board since its inception. Many thanks are due to Bill for his valuable, sustained support. The nominating committee put into nomination for the 2006-2009 term the following candidates for the FOVLAP Board of Directors:

Andy Dales (Caspian Lake)

Dave Wood (Lake Salem)

Jeannie Jenkins (Lake Paran)

Nominations were opened from the floor, but none were received. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the candidates as nominated.

Roger Thompson offered a review and update on the VT SEPTIC REGULATIONS. On July 1, 2007, all new and replacement septic systems and water supplies will need to meet state regulations. He fielded questions about alternative systems and variances allowed in permitting for failed systems, requirements for installers, who determines a failure, when a permit is required, etc. He provided information about seasonal to year round conversion. A property is considered year-round if it is occupied for more than 180 days per year. He provided his contact information (phone:802-241-3027 or email: Roger.B.Thompson@state.vt.us).

#### PANEL DISCUSSION on Shoreline Protection and Soil Erosion Problems:

- > Representative David Deen gave a slide presentation on soil erosion and discussed legislation he has introduced in the VT House (H313) that would provide shoreland protection. It is based on the NH Shoreland Protection Law, and would provide setback regulations for new shoreline construction.
- > Kellie Merrill of the DEC Lakes and Ponds Division discussed her involvement with the phosphorus monitoring program looking at nutrient enrichment. She also discussed her interest in shoreline development and changing littoral habitat and its effect on the 24% of identified species of greatest conservation need that rely on aquatic shoreline for habitat.
- > Eric Hanson of the VT Loon Recovery Project reported that although loons were taken off the endangered species list last year, there are concerns about long term protection of nesting sites which are mostly on private land. He is starting to work with landowners about protecting these sites for the future.
- > Mary Durling is a Caspian Lake landowner who has worked with the DEC on a shoreline vegetation project. She spoke about the value of planting native plants and recommended state and UVM publications about types of and sources for obtaining native plants.
- > Ray Richer is a Joes Pond landowner and concerned citizen who has worked with Kellie and Susan and has restored much of his land with native vegetation. He expressed concerns about permit violations and loss of wildlife habitat.
- > Susan Warren of the DEC Lakes and Ponds Division discussed her involvement with shoreland management issues. Her focus is on education and outreach since the state has no regulations or jurisdiction over shoreland development. Development of shorelands has a big impact on water quality, and most towns have no protective zoning. Susan has information and is looking for ways to get it out to new shoreland owners before they develop.

The presentations were followed by questions and discussion. One of the topics discussed was that VT does have wetland regulations. The state has authority to enforce buffer regulations in environmental court. Kellie commented that state uniform zoning regulations would simplify decisions for towns. David encouraged us to talk with our local representatives to encourage them to support his bill, which offers at least minimum protection. Cliff Aikens reported on his observations after attending a New England conference that VT has fewer regulations than other states, and we need to move forward to protect our lakes and ponds. Other ideas expressed included the observation that VT towns fail to recognize the value of our lakes, that we need to work closely with and educate towns, and that we should consider whole watersheds, not just shorelands. After lunch, discussion continued to emphasize the fact that it is important to protect our shorelands, which in turn protects our water quality.

Our after lunch SPEAKER was Ray Richer, a wildlife photographer from Joe's Pond, who provided us with a beautiful and timely slide presentation titled "Life in the Balance on Vermont's Lakes and Ponds."

#### LAKE REPORTS:

Lake reports were given by 23 lakes and ponds, including Caspian Lake, Lake Carmi, Cedar Lake (Monkton Pond), Seymour Lake, Lake Elmore, Greenwood Lake, Lake Groton, Hall's Lake, Lake Harvey, Joe's Pond, Lake Eden, Lake Iroquois, Lake Parker, Lake St Catherine, Little Hosmer Pond, North Montpelier Pond, Neal Pond, Salem Lake, Shadow Lake, South Pond, Silver Lake (Barnard), Lake Willoughby (Westmore Association), and Woodbury Lake. The reports will be included and made available in a folder. They provided much lively discussion and interaction among those attending the meeting. Concerns focused on prevention and spread of aquatic nuisance species, especially Eurasian Watermilfoil. Major commitments in volunteer time and money are devoted to projects of varying size and scope. Shoreline erosion and sedimentation are becoming increasing areas of focus and concern for lake associations. Many lakes reported on their association potlucks, educational and social events, and shared information about their access monitoring and other ANS spread prevention projects. All shared their love for their special lake or pond.

#### AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT:

Susan Warren shared her interest in watershed issues earlier in the meeting. She is interested in our input and ideas.

Leslie Matthews, the new lakes and ponds specialist, introduced herself. She is working with Ann Bove and is especially involved with ANS spread prevention. She reported that there is a newly discovered infestation of water chestnuts in the Mississquoi National Wildlife Refuge, which is of major concern to the Agency. She is holding a workshop for those interested in starting access monitoring programs. She also spoke about the new ANS voluntary sticker program, and encouraged lake associations to get involved in promoting the sale of these attractive stickers. The proceeds will support Grants-in-Aid programs, and will benefit all lakes and ponds.

The meeting ended with discussion about setting up an easy way for members to communicate by email, which Retta Dunlap will pursue, and about the possibility of using some of our grant money to develop our website. Door prizes were awarded. Cindy McCarthy won a NALMS t-shirt and Louise Colbert-Mar won VT Life note cards. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and accepted, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Wright, Secretary