

Draft minutes
FOVLAP ANNUAL MEETING
JULY 24, 2017
BARRE STEAK HOUSE

Registration 8:30 Meeting Order 9:00AM

Order called by Don
Bruce Tanner Roll\ Lakes & Ponds voting members
Greensboro Association
Lake Seymour
Lake Carmi
Lake Reponda Association
Westmore Association
Lake St Catherine Association
Salem Lake Association
Little Hosmer Pond (not checked in)
Lake Bomoseen Association
Lake Sunset /Sunrise
Pilouts Bay Champlain
Peacham Pond
Lake Iroquois
Lake Harvey
Southpond
Shadow Lake
Lake Eden
Echo Lake

**Motion to approve minutes from 2016 annual meeting
Roger Cortee (Salem Lake)
2nd Mark Cassello (Eden) (Arthur Curicillo)
Motion carried as presented (17 yea- 0 opposed)
Minutes are posted on the website

Treasures Report: Bruce Tanner:
Many thanks to Bruce Barter for the help in transition
Review of Balance Report:
See (written report) +261.00
Cash Flow Report: Jan1-Dec 31 2016 –see print report

Don: Judy Davis has developed over the years a handbook covering topics such as erosion control, native plantings and other best practice maintenance for lake properties. We have a recent print available and each association will receive 5 copies of Judy's booklet today. More will be available for purchase and distribution. Amy Picotte will receive 100 copies for her Lake Wise Program.

Roger Crouse: Nominating Committee
Thanks to Jackie and Mary Jo for participating
Each year we have to elect 2 officers. This year the positions of Vice President and Secretary

The committee nominates:

Tracey Shadday for Vice President. This will be her first term. Tracey is from Echo Lake in Northern Vermont.

Mary Jo Teetor for Secretary. This will be her second term. Mary Jo is from Lake St. Catherine in Poultney, Central Vermont.

In addition each year there are 3 director positions elected to fill in for those who have reached their term limits or have been elected to be an officer. The following people have been nominated, each for a 3 year term:

Cynthia Stevens of Lake Seymour in Morgan, Northern Vermont

Bob Franzoni of Lake Bomoseen, in Castleton, Central Vermont

A third nominee has not been determined or received by the 30 day advance deadline before the annual meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor for this 3rd position of director for a 3 year term.

***Action:** Peggy Barter made a motion to accept the slate as presented Chrissie 2nd the motion.

Motion Carried: 16yeas 0 opposed

Roger will accept nominees from the floor 1 open position for director

Andy Dales nominates Stewart Arnold from Lake Caspian

Jo Wright nominates Bob Bois from Lake Reponda

With no other nominations the nominations are closed and a paper ballot will be taken.

Comments: * Peggy Barter would like to comment in favor of Stewart Arnold for director he is active on Caspian Lake following father's footsteps as a participant in association

*Jack Widness: Bob Bois not much representation from the south and Bob Being from Lake Reponda, he has background in conservation, ecology and environmental issues which would serve us well.

Peggy added Carol Bois is a current trustee so Lake Reponda has a representative on the board.

Andy Dales asked a question about 2 representatives from one lake on the board. Don replied there is nothing in our by-laws that would prevent this.

.....Why can we not vote more people on the board as in past there has been trouble getting interested in being involved. Don replied that the by-laws do have a determined number of directors noted.

*Green card holders will take a ballot to vote for one representative for the remaining 3 year term.

**Roger announced: 5 Bob Bois, 13 Stewart Arnold
Stewart Arnold new board director**

ByLaws: Roger Crouse

Don explained overview –this change is meant to address persons who were directors and have termed out or maybe never directors but have been actively involved with FOVLAP. There are several people who have been involved but have no “official” connection to FOVLAP over the years. These include Ginny Garrison, Bruce and Peggy Barter, Art Brooks, Bob Bois, Cynthia Stevens, DEC representatives – Perry Thomas, Amy Picotte, Angela Shambaugh, Ann Bove.

Roger: Reading of proposed change

ARTICLE V:

DIRECTORS

Paragraph #7--- Auxillary Members defined

Auxillary Membership. A person wishing to serve FOVLAP may be appointed by the Board of Directors as an “Auxillary Member” of the Board of Directors, has no vote on the board and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

***Action:** A motion to approve bylaw change was made by Jamie Lonergan and Bruce Barter seconded the motion.

No discussion

Motion carried: 17 yea 0 opposed

Guest Speaker: DEC Commissioner Emily Boedecker

Emily was lured to Vermont by the Nature Conservancy from Silicon Valley (HP), previously executive director of Local Motion (Burlington) and now Commissioner of Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation.

Thanks given to members for all they do on their lakes as well as the DEC team

Visited with Lake Carmi and the team that is working on implementation, etc.

She heard about programs and concerns about how, why and when the turnaround will be seen from all the work done.

DEC is **all in**. Representatives present from associations are **all in**. We are now at a point where dates of implementation for the Storm Water Act are upon us.

Working with Ag partners (farms) and towns (roads) on implementation of best practices because we all care about clean water.

Hearing the frustrations of why can we not turn conditions around (Carmi) Emily addressed this by speaking of how these problems have been years even decades in the making. Thinking we were doing the best thing for farms, roads, lakes but, in fact errors in choices were made. Continuing working as a team and working with tactical basin action plans. There is a new refreshing of these plans that will take 5 years, they are truly action focused plans.

Clean Water Week...pay attention to the work for the long haul and the recognition of the contributions that are being made.

She wants to hear the questions and comments (concerns, frustrations, how to be a better team together).

During the legislative session there were detailed conversations about funding for clean water. The governor and legislature together agreed that \$48million in capital funding over 2 years. Now how quickly can we maximize this funding and get the projects running, and the ground work moving to impact water quality. By November 15 the legislature wants to see where this money is being used on the ground.

Participants are essential to inspire the actions and results. We need to talk to our selectboards and take action. Lake associations are critical connections to the towns and lakes.

Details from the whole lakes team coming.

Questions:

Cynthia Stevens (Seymour)...used sterile grass carp in CT successfully (Candlewood Lake) for milfoil control no negative impacts after studies over 20 years. Would it be possible to use this method in lakes (Coontail invaded after milfoil) over all lake is better condition than ever weeds not on surface.

Emily deferred to Perry for details (perhaps the report can be shared).

Bob Bois \$45million where do you want to spend...Capital Funds Bonded for the State of Vermont with specific capital eligible projects. Implementation projects on the ground, there is a certain amount of design and engineering, the funds cannot be used for planning. Sector specific issues identified. Clean Water Board is seeking input. Funding will be filtered through Agency of Agriculture, Agency Transportation. Clean water funds also will still come through the property transfer tax.

(ERP)Moved from 2 grant rounds to 4 rounds per year and applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Block Grant concept; Granted to entity (regional planning commissions and conservation districts).

Grant in Aid: Allocation funds based on interest and best practices as a group.

186 towns are interested in the funds process they are required to use best management practices in rebuilding, ditching, etc. Lakes need to work with the local select boards to ensure the work for clean water.

Bruce Barter: FOVLAP and individual lakes have a close working relationship with Lakes and Ponds but, at times there are issues they may not be responsible for. So we are looking for a point person for direction on whom and how to contact (ie: F&W). She will take that question to see what they can do with that (Perry, Julie). Possibly someone on the commissioners staff could work interdepartmentally. Don added there are also contacts needed Ag, Transportation, F&W.

Jack Wideness: How do you get things done with the town officials? For example discussed applying for Aquatic Nuisance grant but the town did not seem to have the knowledge. Have groups talk using the best strategy. How can this be better fostered and what is being done at the state to do this.

Clean water funding board has representatives from each agency at the table.

How can we use different programs to bring education going through the channels where municipal administration normally gets their information? State is looking at avenues of education going through the channels where the municipality gets its education and training.

Encourage each person hear to talk to the receptive ears and bring to your meetings and membership to learn. Engage your public works, select boards, legislators and show them what you are doing and how it is being done. They need to meet to become receptive and supportive.

Watershed Management Division:

Danielle Owczarski: Watershed Coordinator VDEC

Vermont Clean Water Road Map: CWR

Tool developed for the (TMDL) Total Maximum Daily Load for Pollutants in Champlain watershed. The hope is to extend to the other watersheds in the state.

Two major functions; where are nutrients coming from and where are the resources that we can use to protect the watershed, water resources for the future.

What is the Clean Water Road Map? Find on the web at <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/CWR/>. It is used to support tactical basin planning and outreach using the data gathered from the water shed. The information drives decisions on the following:

How to we put actions into place to enhance or keep at current level.

How do we lower the phosphorus input.

Land uses – non pinpoint sources such as waste water discharge (it does not cover septic systems specifically)

dec.vermont.gov/content/clean-water-roadmap-webinar

Uses: identify areas for improvement

Identify Watershed areas with highest phosphorus loading values

Try different best management practices and determine reductions

Things to remember:

This tool is usable to inform users where to look. It is really the first step in an action plan.

Takes into account soil type, slope, land use, it is meant to be used as a broad brush to be followed up by verification.

How is this tool used in tactical basin planning?

Identify and map priority areas for planning and used in the basin planning process (Implementation or identify where are the worst places?).

This is where the Capital Funds can be applied for in the Basin areas.

Focus on most impacted areas

Know who your Watershed Planner, there are 5 planners in 15 watersheds.

The available Funding for Regional Planning Commissions to work on DEC behalf as well.

Demonstration of Sites:

Nature Conservancy; Water Quality Blue Print

This looks at Stormwater, pollution sources

Nature Based Solutions: Wetlands, restored floodplains protect upland forest, supporting forestry initiatives, keeping the forests intact, and working with loggers on best practices vegetative buffers

Benefits: Clean Water better wildlife, recreational opportunity, flood resiliency, fish habitat

Clean water road map specific to the Nature conservancy :

nature conservancy <https://www.nature.org/.../vermont/.../nature-based-solutions-for-clean-water.xml>

Mapping is based on watershed areas.

Modeling currently is for the Champlain Basin TMDL (funded). Others are under development.

BREAK: 11:04

Recognition of Dick Simpson who's father started FOVLAP

Lake Reports: See Separate pages

Lunch 12:01

Participants from 2017 Summit Teams: Barry

2015 following Tropical Storm Irene Echo partnered with State Agencies, Non-profit organizations, and public and private funders to develop promote climate change resilience. To prepare for events do to climate change. They partnered with Champlain College to lead people through a process to develop projects forming teams that would cultivate relationships in multi sector, multi community groups over a two day period that they would then bring to public and private funders (DEC, ANR, High Meadows, Lake Champlain Basin Program). Most of the projects were funded and now being implemented. In 2017 the teams were brought back to share their experience and lessons with 11 new watershed groups. Encouraging people to work across political boundaries, all members of the community to work think and act like a watershed for clean water.

The next summit will be 2019. High Meadows will not be available for that summit but, there is outreach going on to hopefully attract other private funders and of course hoping the public funders will still be participating as well.

Discussion about Clean Water Network dedicated to -- How do we create a culture of clean water?

Google: VT Clean Water Network

Panel Discussion: Leahy Summit 2017 - Teamwork with Barry

Climate Change Resilience Projects: High Meadows funders

Watershed Associations:

Panel participants:

Beth Torpey (Lake Memphremagog Watershed) storm water collaborative (storm resilience) evolution took place over several years. They began looking at the entire watershed. Realized quickly there is too much work for an all-volunteer organization. They looked at having an employee, having already done many of the ground level parts. After grant submissions and discussions, High Meadows is in Newport today. Public funds include sampling and analysis, ERP grants. Private funding available from Cassella Waste (they have a landfill in Newport). Primary partners – City of Newport , Seymour Lake Association, Northwood Stewardship Center, NRCD , Orleans NRCD , NVDA (Northern Vermont Development Association) and a couple of towns and associations. In summary: to provide resources and assistance to projects in the area of storm water resiliency.

Marty Hilick (Lewis Creek), Ahead of the Storm Identifies and addresses water quality problems and habitat enhancement of the Platte watershed. (Lewis Creek Association since 1990 water is issue, habitat issue. The mission in recognition not knowing enough about landscape today to do effective stewardship. The watershed community needs to learn more about the watershed. How it works in the area and make sure it is factual. Characterize water quality issues. They had meetings with interested community members with common interests (ahead of the storm). Acknowledging quickly education pieces not well funded by government monies, working creatively to educate and solve the cause of some of these problems is important.

Put best practices on the ground for your land use. Used engineer for design to have a high quality project and documentation on the effects. Data is on line for distribution of materials (demonstrating good practices to show the rate of changes). Valley is clay (old lake bottom) with lots of phosphorus. Any disturbance it moves loading phosphorus into the lake. They are always looking for partners in education. Primary partners are the towns, regional planning, working closely with property owners, schools, DEC

Pete Benevento Franklin Watershed Committee working with Lake Carmi

Subcommittee of the Lake Carmi Camper Association originally. Committee formed in the mid 1990's, in 2008 expanded and became a corporation with 501c3 nonprofit. Carmi was approved for TMDL in 2009. Committee wanted to improve water quality in the lake doing projects in the watershed, partnered with DEC. In 2015 they met in Franklin and discussed issue on algae (more blooms). They created implementation team concentrating on the action to reduce TMDL. Agency partners—DEC is biggest partner helping with, grants, shoreline roads, Lake Wise, inventory was done to improve roads, lake monitoring, streams. – Lake Carmi Camper Association interacts as well, with funding and support, Department of Agriculture, Small farms inspector to develop a project in lake hoping will come to fruition next year. NWRegional planning commission road review significant problems, also helped with Franklin, roads permit submission, Sean Colman helped mentoring town to get grant, VT parks and recreation, tributary (marsh brook) to lake comes through park, farm that spreads manure has agreed to stop near brook/lake, Americorps since 2010 volunteer for environmental purposes, NRCS(natural resources conservations service), Dept. of Health (take algae samples weekly to test for toxicity), Lake Champlain Committee (good tracking program for algae), Lake Sea Grant (workshops, rain gardens, pollinators), Lake Champlain Basin Program (grants, greeter program), Farmers Watershed Alliance (trying to open up communication with farming communities to help improve watershed) Lake Carmi is surrounded by farms and agricultural fields. The implementation team is critical to success of many of these programs and progress is happening.

Comment: Farmers watershed alliance? How many people have a connection in their communities with farmers.

Perry Thomas: Lakes Program Manager

Lake Implementation Teams: New concept that came out of passing Clean Water act

Who is doing what across sectors, how does the community know where to direct limited resources.

Tactical Basin Plans became the vehicle for implementation

Lake Carmi was the first.

Form team lakes or associations and supported by DEC

Partner with watershed coordinators

Tactical basin planning along with implementation teams are tasked with assessing needs in water shed, developing strategies to address the needs

Implementation tables built into plans, prioritizing projects, identify sources of funding, support grant writing, communicating progress

Teams serve as hub for communication

Typical partners include: Municipalities, regional planning, conservation districts, watershed associations, other NGO's, associations

Each team has its focus (not all the same) Three teams here (Lake Carmi, Lake St Catherine, Lake Bomoseen).

Lake Carmi- algae issues

St Catherine –Laura D is working with 2 associations, on management of growth and run off sediment, erosion control. Bomoseen doing similar work, their implementation team is meeting August 22 during Cleanwater Week.

Tools to support – the lake scorecard, it helps give you a sense of what data is available to the team.

Mark Mitchell is available to interpret the data on the score card.

Marli Rupe:

Implementation teamhelps DEC understand where the gaps are – where the needs are, what exists but need to know how to access, and how basin

planning helps here

Areas of resources – watershed coordinators word for the (MAP) all the documentation is here monitoring assessment planning? Information on the watersheds.

Basin Planners – are the resources Where the problems are and how to prioritize area.

Bring other resources – conservation districts, regional planning commissions, can help partnering and getting funding (easier to get with some coordination) technical, monitoring and also the planning resources.....

Other part is efficiencies in funding and getting the word out and back.

Watersheds United is very effective in communication, opportunities, for implementation teams. DEC also needs the information back.

Clean water initiative program, provides and tracks money for water quality improvement.

\$10,000,000 this year in funding as compared to 3,000,000 last year.

Page on DEC site user friendly that gives resources for funding. Right now ERP (Eco-restoration program) is open now as it is a rolling grant program. That program is a capital funding, bricks and mortar program.....not education.

There is some money, for education although limited, working with the watershed partners to get those resources out.

We highly encourage your group to work with a Watershed District , Perry, and Marli for implementation.

Need to keep track and justify the funding and work being done.

Thanks to all participants in these projects.

Questions:

A member read article about Marty receiving an award. GMP gave an award out for water quality and Marty thought that was great that GMP was willing to recognize an organization focused on water quality.

Website for clean water initiative: <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi>

Clean Water week.....be a sponsor.

*What experience with business partners? It is most challenging to get to the table to participate. They are busy. Some of the successes are businesses that understand the value of clean water to their business (recreation for example). Demonstrate the value to businesses to bring them in.

Friends of North Champlain has one of the best partnerships with business outreach.

*How are teams formed? The existing teams were formed in communities where there has been some tension on how to deal with a particular issue in the lake. DEC has helped and directed groups to the tactical basin plans.

*Interest in storm water utilities: the state is very interested and will help develop a utility. Currently there are 3.

Working group for legislative proposal is looking at funding (per acre fee) for green infrastructure for the next session.

Along with tightening for municipalities, storm water, Agriculture regulations have been tightened for clean water. Manure, streams, tree planting, healthy soils, fields best organic matter that sinks in not run off. Working on innovative ways of helping farmers use best practice to keep soils healthy.

Lake Bomoseen....5 storm water problems identified after meeting 4 of the 5 came to meeting and are problem solving. Approaching problems proactively and fixing together is key.

Lake Reports Issues

Evaluations;

Door Prizes:

Stain Glass Heart: Jim Candors

Plant: Dick Simpson

Motion to Adjourn 2:58

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Jo Teetor

Greensboro Association: No Milfoil

Problem: Caspian Lake level higher than historical by 10/12". Working with ANR they have a dam adjustable owned by the electric utility in Hardwick worked to stabilize water level. Cannot move dam anymore and there is now an unintended consequence now. Need support trying to figure a way to adjust lake level.

Eden Lake: Dramatic rain events. 10/12 feeder streams that feed the lake. Video was taken last year of debris coming into lake from one of the streams a large delta has been formed. Danielle is ready to formulate a master plan with regional planners. Meeting with selectboard and road crews. Hoping to apply for grant monies to implement a master plan.

Seymore Lake:

Issues: Lake level issue (not lakes and pond issue but, F&W issue) looking for a point person as discussed earlier in meeting. Also a slalom course of bouys on lake, is there any rules or laws with time something like this can be set up. Creates noise, activity, and creates obstacles of other boaters. (Perry comment – only rule relevant is 200 ft rule (shore and other boaters, swimmers). Third issue silt build up at boat ramp due to stream runoff. F&W are resistant to the association cleaning out (permit required from encroachment). Need support for permit.

Shadow Lake: Had emerging milfoil 10,000sq ft. Now milfoil free to date. Constant lake monitoring Also has silt deposit and have been working to mitigate. Help needed with private property owners.

Carmi Campers Association:

Milfoil and Algae blooms. Looking into the tmdl to limit phosphorus. Most of the Roads are private and difficult to get property owners to help. Roads need to be crowned and maintained. Funding is needed. Right now funding is not applied for private roads around lakes only public roads.

Perry comment: Better Roads Programs ERP.... Work with municipalities If they identify a private road a contributor they can request the funds to deal with private roads.

South Pond: Silting issues with high water, there is an existing dam. Unwashed boats entering from private areas. Education is needed. 2 islands on the pond and one just purchased and sand has been imported. Would like advise on how to approach landowners so they are not offended.

No invasives to report

Lake Reponda: No invasives, joined greeter program involves state town and association. Would like state to increase funding for more full time greeters to lakes. State has been helpful and cooperative but this is a funding issue.

Westmore: Greeter Program and Milfoil Harvesting – funding is less each year. Need to raise funding , suggestion that an AIS sticker be created to help raise funds. Individuals lobby to create a sticker program.

Comment Don; FOVLAP can testify to the legislature but, cannot lobby because of the 503C status
Harvey's Lake: Back flow from the dam. They

Comments : Chrissy: Testified and it was brought up they legislature said it would cost more to implement then they would bring in funding.

Josh: Motorized tax does contribute to AIS Grant 20% of the registration fees. AIS issues are being taken seriously at the capital and they are receptive to discussing looking for solution.

Perry: they did generate a sticker but, it was not required and the state lost money...So if it goes forward at some point it needs to be required.

Other: Out of state boaters do not contribute.

Lake Reports Issues

Lake Iroquis: accomplishment infestation of milfoil. 2015 applied grant from lake champ basin for hot water wash station. Implemented the program this spring.

Josh: comment

It is an impressive set up for decontamination. Excellent resources

South hero and Shelburne access (2 permanent stations in VT on Champlain

Shadow Lake has a station

St Catherine:

15 trustees/ 300 members of association. Use spot treatment of renovate. Greeter programs have been very effective

Biggest problem is enforcement. Patrols a couple of times a week

Suction harvesting is working well and now used more than herbicide.

Peachum Pond:

Dam by GMP does a good job regulating water levels. Roads were class 4 now town upgraded to class 3 The association is wanting to start a greeter program. No milfoil now and would like to keep it that way.

Salem Lake: no milfoil no starry stonewort. Soil runoff a problem clogging Clyde river. A clear cut without buffer zone across from lake that is causing siltation problems. Could use help in finding how to remedy the siltation. Healthy native plants on the rise.

Perry comment: dept of forest and rec is increasing the required management practices and should

Pelots Bay n champlain: Milfoil harvesting in a couple of bays. There is more interest from other bays but, funding is challenging.

Little Hosmer Pond; no invasives, no preventative program. Problem with geese at F&W access

Looking for other lakes to get together to approach f&w to change management practices. Creating a no mow zone. Little Hosmer is larger than Great Hosmer

Lake Bomoseen: with all of the lake issues the habitat has been diverse and

Echo Lake: pair loons nesting, Gold lake wise award 15% of properties are lakewise certified.