



## **Annual Meeting**

July 22, 2013

The Steak House, Berlin, VT

### **I. Welcome and FOVLAP Business (FOVLAP Pres. Jackie Sprague)**

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am

#### **A. Minutes of 2012 Annual Meeting**

Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting were distributed. A motion to accept the minutes carried.

#### **B. Treasurer's Report (Judy Davis)**

Treasurer's Report was distributed and presented by Judy Davis who explained how grant funds were used to create curriculum and educational materials, revamp the FOVLAP website and consult with Marketing Partners on graphic design and social marketing tools. A motion to accept the report carried.

#### **C. Election of Directors and Officers (Bruce Durgin)**

Perry Thomas and Judy Davis were reported to roll off. Lori Fisher from Lake Champlain was nominated to fill one opening. A motion to accept Lori Fisher as a FOVLAP Director carried.

### **II. Updates from VT-DEC Lakes and Ponds Representatives (Amy Picotte)**

#### **A. Status of DEC Lakes and Ponds**

- Greeters and VIP volunteers have increased; lay monitoring continues
- 2013 no new sightings of invasives
- \$224,000 given out in grants, this is lower than in the past
- Steve Hannah has taken a new job working with the DAM safety program, his replacement will be hired soon
- Jeremy Deeds was hired for the Lake Assessment program but has left to work in Maine; they will fill this position with a lake scientist
- Russ Ford is a temporary hire for the Lake Wise program

#### **B. Shoreland Management through Lake Wise**

\* Lake Wise is a program based on Maine's Lake Smart; it is a scientifically based, solution-oriented effort

#### **C. Cyanobacteria**

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\* Dept. of Health is monitoring; if there are any concerns, contact DOH who has a procedure for sampling and reporting

#### D. Legislative Commission for Shoreland Bill

The Legislative Commission will take testimony and hear from the public about the Shoreland Bill. Five meetings are being set up throughout VT. Go to <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/> for updates on these meetings

#### E. Q & A - Concerns Presented by Participants

Q: Septic Testing - Does the state of VT intend to test old systems located close to the water?

A: Amy will check with the Wastewater Division and put the answer on the FOVLAP website. A 2007 law passed requiring that septic upgrades come into compliance with state standards.

Q: Greeters and Milfoil - Is there a suggested approach for greeters to use that puts real teeth into getting boaters with milfoil off the lakes, especially if they refuse to have their boat washed?

A: Ginny suggested taking a photograph of their license plate if they are in violation. The greeter can explain to the boater that their role and removal of invasives helps us obtain grant money from the state.

### III. VT's Clean Water Legacy (Kari Dolan)

There are various water quality challenges statewide. We're all part of the problem and part of the solution. The Lake Shoreland Bill H.526 responds to this challenge and involves a collaboration of all stakeholders.

Water Quality threats include nutrient loading, sedimentation, pathogens, encroachments upon riparian areas, destruction of aquatic habitat.

A Vision for the Future includes protection of public health, a rise in property values, jobs related to stormwater management strategies and enhanced ecological value of water.

Six Goals to See the Vision:

1. control stormwater runoff, esp. nonpoint source pollution from developed lands, roads and erosion from streambanks
2. continue to make progress in aquatic nuisance species prevention and control
3. maintain progress in areas where we've been successful
4. fill the gaps in non precipitation driven discharges (eg. failed septic systems)
5. secure adequate funding to address the greatest problems
6. create performance measures for measuring success and providing greater accountability

Strategies:

1. create a robust grant program to target funding to the greatest need (technical assistance and education/outreach)
2. municipal infrastructure (eg. state revolving fund creating stormwater management)
3. agriculture (eg. small farm inspection program, technical assistance program for farms)

Different funding options have been analyzed. A statewide fund is popular around the country. Fee-based stormwater utilities have grown since 2006. Kari and legislators would like our opinion in supporting this vision and strategy. Contact: [kari.dolan@state.vt.us](mailto:kari.dolan@state.vt.us), 802-490-6113 and [susan.warren@state.vt.us](mailto:susan.warren@state.vt.us), 802-490-6134

### IV. VT Shoreland Protection (Rep. David Deen & Sen. Robert Hartwell)

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Senator Robert Hartwell highlights:

- Commended Wisconsin and Minnesota for their lake work
- Lakeshore protection commission, ANR and legislators will create a presentation explaining lake health issues and proposal, the final road show will be in Montpelier
- Legislators will deal with Shoreland Protection bill first thing in January
- The legislative committee on rule-making meets year-round, rules must meet legislative intent, checks and balances are present
- ANR and legislators continue to collaborate throughout the process

Representative David Deen highlights:

- Funding to be introduced to the House will include a water bottle tax, a tax credit for agricultural activities that protect water (ex: fence along stream bank), a \$30/yr parcel charge per developed property
- \* Key senators to contact include Senator Dick Mazza, Senator John Campbell, Senator Mullin and senators from your district
- \* Legislators will not let go of rule-making; bill goes to the Senate in January then back to Rep. Deen's house committee
- \* Roadshow will not be a formal public hearing but a moderated Q & A
- \* The house version of the bill is performance-based controlling impacts not land
- \* State rule vs. town rule: with the current bill, a town can come up with its own standard but it must meet the standard or be stronger; if towns can meet the standards, they can enforce

FAQs are being updated and posted on the legislative website; commission information will be on the front page of the legislative website.

## **V. FOVLAP Website Update (Don Weaver)**

- \* Don introduced our new lake blog: "Wise About Water: Knowledge in Action"; check it out on the FOVLAP website
- \* soon members will be able to pay for the seminar and annual meeting on the FOVLAP website

## **VI. Blueberries for Blue Lakes (Judy Davis)**

Information about the "Buffers for Blue Lakes" program can be found on the front page of the FOVLAP website. Resources include a map showing where native low bush blueberry bushes can be found and a "how to" planting guide. Those interested in building a lakeshore buffer with blueberry plants should contact Judy Davis at <[davisjud@gmail.com](mailto:davisjud@gmail.com)>. There is a \$50 match required per property.

## **VII. Panel: Tactical Basin Planning - A Watershed Approach to Lake Management**

Facilitated by Neil Kamman, Program Manager for the Monitoring, Assessment and Planning Program of VT's Watershed Management Division; Ethan Swift, Basin Planner for the Poultney-Mettowee and Otter Creek watersheds; and Ben Copans, Basin Planner for Memphremagog Basin.

Lake representatives: Peggy Barter (Seymour Lake), Art Brooks (Lake Willoughby), Don Hendrich (Memphremagog Lake) and Bob Pasco (Lake Iroquois)

Management of a watershed involves creating strategies for each source of stress to the lake. Stressors may include invasive species, channel erosion, flow alteration, acidification, etc. The Tactical Basin Plan describes how each strategy will be implemented and partners to be involved. Lake associations are a key partner in developing and integrating this plan. Example: Ticklenaked Pond - phosphorus impairment. A TMDL was developed and factors identified (farms, roads, camps, driveways and septic systems). Planner worked with conservation district, farmers, lake association, etc. to implement strategy.

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Bob Pasco (Lake Iroquois) reported activities: goal to reduce sediments and milfoil, works with Basin Planner Karen Bates, who provides technical assistance, connects them to resources, meets with town officials and helps to resolve conflicts

Don Hendrich (MWA) reported activities: When MWA was formed (2007) Basin Planner Ben Copans organized various stakeholders and identified over 70 action steps, potential funding sources and a timeline. As a result of his help MWA wrote a ERP grant for wastewater treatment. Ben provided technical support, offered grant opportunities and acted as a DEC liaison

Peggy Barter (Seymour Lake) reported activities: issues involve milfoil prevention and decrease of phosphorus entering lake. Ben Copans helped assess impact of culvert blowouts and assisted in identifying Better Backroads Projects. A boat tour of the lake involved identification of lake-friendly landscape practices

Art Brooks (Willoughby) reported: issues involve increase of phosphorus and milfoil. Activities include VIP and Greeter training, lay monitoring, help with encroachment on shoreline and Septic Social.

### **VIII. Lake Association Reports - One Minute - One Issue**

Nineteen Lake Reports were presented and submitted in written form. Reports received from:

Carmi (Peter Benevento)  
Champlain/Pelots Bay Restoration (Jeanine Pratt)  
Eligo (Susan Camp)  
Groton (Ellen & Kirk Farquharsen)  
Harvey's (Jackie Sprague)  
Iroquois (Bob Pasco)  
Morey (Bruce Durgin)  
Neal (Michael Carbonneau & Albert Shewokis)  
Sadawga (Jim Boyhen & Randall Bobb)  
St. Catherine (Jim Candors & Martin Greenberg)  
Seymour Lake (Bruce Barter - 2 reports)  
Silver (Craig Hadden & Cliff Aikens)  
South (Jerilyn Bergdahl)  
Sunrise Sunset Lake Perch Pond (Jamie Longtin)  
Tinmouth (Sherry Johnson)  
VT Center for Ecostudies (Eric Hanson)  
Willoughby (Howland Swift & Art Brooks - 2 reports)

### **IX. Resources & Tools**

The following tools are available for homeowners and lake associations:

Vermont ANR - Natural Resources Atlas  
Facebook Vermont Lake Wise  
FOVLAP website - Resources  
Lake Wise Fact Sheets (pdfs) for homeowner

### **X. Other:**

A. Scholarship recipient Evie Brahmstedt was introduced

B. Eric Hansen (VT Center for Ecosystem Studies) provided two guides for boaters and lakeshore owners written from the wildlife viewpoint using the loon as a centerpiece. He asks lakes to distribute these. He plans to replace outdated loon signs (20-30 y/o) and will set up a web-based fundraising program for

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interested lakes. He asked that e-mails be sent to homeowners and that notice of fundraising efforts be placed in newsletters.

C. A motion was made for FOVLAP to create a resolution to accept H526.

- A 2nd motion was presented: "We strongly support a bill similar to H526"
- Jackie explained that FOVLAP officially supports Act 138
- A motion was made to table the 2nd motion
- A 3rd motion was presented: "FOVLAP strongly supports the idea of having statewide shoreline protection"
- Discussion about diversity of opinions among VT towns ensued
- Jackie Sprague called for a vote, asking for one person to vote from each member association and calling for individual votes as well.

For 12

Opposed 15

Abstentions 3

- The motion did not pass

**The 2013 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 3:48 pm.**

Minutes submitted by:

Tracey Shadday

FOVLAP Secretary

September 2013