

FOVLAP Legislative Committee: Legislative Accomplishments

Clean water is a shared resource, belonging to all Vermonters. The quality of our waters is an asset that supports our way of life, environment, property values, health and safety, and economy. The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) is one of the oldest non-profit stakeholders to promote Vermont water quality; the Federation of Lakes and Ponds Northeast Kingdom was founded in 1972 and became the statewide FOVLAP in 2002.

The FOVLAP Board of Directors' (BOD) Legislative Committee is one of several committees created by the FOVLAP BOD to support FOVLAP. The list below reflects a summary of the Legislative Committee's recent accomplishments.

2021

- Created a list of key legislative contacts.
- Sent letters from the FOVLAP BOD to:
 - The chair of the House Committee on Transportation on [S.86](#), an act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to vehicles and vessels, to request the validation sticker period for out-of-state boat registrations *not* be extended from 30 to 60 days as was proposed.
 - FOVLAP BOD Legislative Committee members submitted testimony in the House Committee on Transportation to support the FOVLAP letters re: S.86 and to educate on aquatic invasive species (AIS) spread prevention and needing sustainable revenue to support the VT Department of Environmental Conservation AIS prevention and management programs.

2020

- Created a list of key legislative contacts.
- With BOD approval, created an [Advocacy and Action Plan](#).
- Sent letters from the FOVLAP BOD to:
 - The Vermont Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee encouraging them to hold hearings on [S.69](#), wake boat regulation.
 - The chairs of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Appropriations encouraging support of full funding for [Act 64](#), the Vermont Clean Water Initiative.

2019

- Created "[Advocating Effectively for Our Lakes with the Vermont Legislature](#)" document, with BOD approval, for the benefit of our membership, to cover effective legislative contact both written and in person.

2018

- Advocated for more and stronger enforcement of 2017 [Act 67](#) and aquatic invasive species (AIS) transport violations.
- A FOVLAP BOD Legislative Committee member submitted testimony to the House Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Committee to educate on AIS spread prevention and voice concerns regarding a lack of Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife (VTDFW) enforcement of AIS transport violations.

- Distributed statewide FOVLAP press release supporting the Vermont Public Access Greeter Program highlighting: 1) Act 67 AIS transport law; 2) mandate to inspect and clean all watercraft; and, 3) AIS transport violations can be ticketed by VTDFW.

Ongoing

- Create a culture of clean water through communication, education, and by encouraging the membership to invest in how the Vermont legislative process works and join in lake environmental advocacy.

Future Plans

- Create an “Advocacy Alert” FOVLAP website feature for subscribing members to receive automatic notices when key bills FOVLAP monitors gain traction, alerts to encourage public advocacy by individual lake associations, etc.