



FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY SUMMARY
For meeting held on Monday, February 1, 2021

The FOVLAP Board met on Monday, February 1. Following is a summary of the board discussions.

Report from Oliver Pierson, Program Manager, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Lakes and Ponds Division:

- Angela Shambaugh, Aquatic Ecologist – Environmental Scientist, retired in October. They are in the process of filling this position and hope to have someone on board in the next month or so. They are also working on a partnership with [UVM Sea Grants](#) for a shared position. That position will be based in DEC and oversee the lay monitoring program and work on lake assessments and outreach. Seasonal temporary workers are also in the process of being hired for the summer.
- The request for proposals for the Aquatic Nuisance Control grants has been issued. A workshop for those interested in applying will be held Feb. 11. Details can be found at <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/aquatic-invasives/funding>
- New Vermont dam safety rules have been issued which will require dam owners to comply with new safety requirements. Information about the new rules can be found at: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/dam-safety>
- Four lakes (Lake St Catherine, Caspian, Iroquois, Fairfield) are in the process of submitting full proposals to the Lake Champlain Basin Program to fund development of watershed action plans. Proposals are due Feb 10.
- DEC has some funding available for development of lake watershed action plans for lakes outside the Lake Champlain Basin. Folks can reach out to Oliver if they want more info on this.
- Lake Monitoring: The [LaRosa Water Quality Monitoring Program](#) will be back in operation this summer. Applications were due Jan 29. DEC is also planning two-day next generation lake assessment visits by the monitoring staff. They hope to assess 5 to

10 lakes this summer. 2020 lay monitoring data are now online. Will be adding cyanobacteria and Lake Champlain data as well.

FOVLAP Committee Reports:

Jackie Sprague is the FOVLAP representative to the [New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society \(NEC-NALMS\)](#). She reported that NEC-NALMS will be holding two webinars in 2021:

- Spring webinar on cyanobacteria issues in two parts: April 20 & May 25
- Fall webinar on watershed management issues: October 5

The **Events Committee** is moving forward with plans for the Lake Seminar. The location and date are set: **Friday, June 4, 2021 at Lake Morey**. Mark your calendars now! The committee is also creating a Covid plan if the meeting has to move online. Topic TBA soon.

The **Grants Committee** submitted a grant in January to redesign the FOVLAP website. Unfortunately, that grant was not funded. However, work on updates and tweaks to the website is continuing. The committee is currently working on a DEC Education and Outreach [Watershed Grant](#) due Feb 5 to develop educational materials.

The **Legislative Committee** continues to track water and environmental legislation. The committee regularly posts updates to the FOVLAP website during the legislative session. You can find the updates and a wealth of information to help you follow the Vermont legislative process at: <https://vermontlakes.org/news-and-legislative-updates/> You can also subscribe to receive the FOVLAP legislative updates via email by clicking the “FOVLAP Legislative Updates” on that page.

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On the lighter side of life ... here is a Common Redpoll—a migrant to VT during our winters:



The [common redpoll](#) or mealy redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*) is a species of bird in the [finch](#) family. It breeds somewhat further south than the [Arctic redpoll](#), also in habitats with thickets or shrubs. The common redpoll is a small brownish-grey finch with dark streaks and a bright red patch on its forehead. It has a black bib and two pale stripes on the wings. Males often have their breasts suffused with red. It is smaller, browner and more streaked than the generally similar [Arctic redpoll](#), adults measuring between 11.5 and 14 cm (4.5 and 5.5 in) in length and weighing between 12 and 16 grams (0.42 and 0.56 oz). The rump is streaked and there is a broad dark brown streak across the vent. It has brown legs, dark-tipped yellowish bills and dark brown irises.^[11]