

FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS
ANNUAL MEETING
Unofficial Minutes
July 25, 2016
The Steakhouse, Berlin VT

9:00 AM

Jackie Sprague gave the opening greeting

Roll call of Associations:

Shadow, Seymour, South Pond, Iroquois, Sunrise/Sunset/Perch Pond, Peacham Pond, Reponda, Lake St Catherine, Westmore, Lake Morey, Salem Lakes Association, Hewletts Bay, Eden, Caspian, Harvey Lake Association, Little Hosmer Pond

BUSINESS MEETING:

Approval of Minutes 2015:

Art made a motion to accept Bruce Durgin 2nd to accept minutes from 2015 annual meeting.

Comments: Page 2 appears to be missing

Motion to accept minutes as amended (posted currently on website) minute **Larry Miot** Bruce Durgin.

Motion carried.

Don Weaver wanted to clarify the membership will go to the website to see the final corrected minutes

Lake Reports 2015

Feedback form for today (webinars for the future)

Survey for greeter program

One Minute One Issue for this year / posted

Financial

Treasurers Report:

Bruce Barter explained the financial hand out.

First page anything not grant related

Income : Dues, Donations, Annual meeting,

Expenses:

Annual meeting, PR(newsletter),

DEC grant helps with newsletter

General Liability and D&O insurance

Conference call for board meeting

Dues to NALMS, NENALMS (50 total)

SEE REPORT

Pg 2 Grant from state of VT

Pg 3 NENALMS

Pg 4 Other grants

Pg 5-7 explanation of grants...which are mostly educational purposed

Question about D&O insurance...state grants require liability insurance and the board has D&O for board protection. Jackie explained the presentation given to the board of directors and the board decided it was prudent to have protection (including the treasurer).

Most associations have or should have at least liability.

No other comments.

There is consensus to accept the financial report.

Election of Directors/ Officers: Election of Officers and Directors:

Roger Crouse, chair of nominations explained the nominating process. FOVLAP has four officers with 2 year terms, with two officer positions up for election each year. There are nine directors with 3 year terms, with three director positions up for election each year.

President, Jackie Sprague and Treasurer, Bruce Barter are termed out. Directors Lori Fisher and Art Brooks are termed out.

The following slate of nominations was presented:

President, Don Weaver; Treasurer, Bruce Tanner; Directors Beth Torpey (2nd term); Laurie Callahan (1st term); Tracey Shadday (1 year term for Mary Jo Teetor who accepted the Secretary position in September 2015); Jackie Sprague (1 year term for Don Weaver). This leaves two openings for Directors, one 3 year term and one 2 year term.

A motion to accept the slate as presented by Beth Torpey, 2nd by Carla Cox. Motion carried unanimously. Nominations were open from the floor for one 3 year term and one 2 year term. As there were no nominations for either position, the Board will appoint two directors.

Don Weaver thanked those leaving for all their work as officers and directors, and presented with a poster as a token of appreciation.

Bruce Tanner asked a question about state employees being board members; Jackie Sprague said they could, however, they would not be allowed to vote on certain issues. State employees do participate in our meeting. It was noted the Lake Basin Program are not allowed because of conflict of interest; written into their By-Laws.

It was stated, if anyone is interested in fulfilling a director position please speak to one of the officers or directors after the meeting.

Incoming President, Don Weaver thanked Jackie for all the past work she has done and would not have considered becoming President otherwise.

It should be noted, Chris Canno spoke with Don Weaver after the meeting indicating she may be interested in becoming a director.

**Presentation: Topic: Clean Water Initiative Program/Vermont Clean Water Fund
And an Introduction to the "Regional conservation Partnership Program"**

Don Weaver introduced Kari Dolan, Program Manager CWIP

Act 64 --- new clean water initiative (VT clean water act) whole state not just Lake Champlain
Why?

7100 miles of rivers and streams (812 lakes and pond over 5 acres)

Targeting impaired waters and keep clean waters clean

Impact to water quality on economy (SEE Rutland Herald)

½ the state drains into Lake Champlain.

What we can do on the landscape to reduce 34% of phosphorus loading into the lake.

Water quality point sources also non-point sources (precipitation, rainfall, and snowmelt) sediment and nutrient loading....effect algae blooms, sediment, AIS. Contributors include roads, shoreline encroachment, etc.

Water quality challenges are a statewide problem. The need to work together to address the problems is important. Sources include Storm water, hard surfaces, agriculture needs, focus to improve these issues will help improve water quality. Identify problem areas, and how to address. (New fund)...new permits (time, flexibility, and support) end of 2017 will be in effect and they have been working with municipalities to develop management plans to implement by 2021 with best practices. ERF, Better backroads***hand out with funding sources distributed.

Also, VT transportation storm sewer permit for whole state of Vermont highway system. Sound planning at the watershed scale. Technical assistance will be available, and basin planners are partners.

3rd permit....recognizes we are not treating everyone the same. Grandfather - >3acres sites to get them under the process. 2018 will have general permit to begin tightening up loop holes.

Agriculture water quality: Small farms need assistance and outreach will raise awareness for required agriculture practices. Common sense techniques i.e.: setbacks, livestock exclusion areas, ensure that farmers are not losing top soil. Improve soil health at the farm.

A question was asked about areas like Mississquoi and the large areas vulnerable to flooding near water sources. It is a challenge. Additional practices such as cover crops and crop rotation to help with erosion. The EPA just released Phosphorus targets for Lake Champlain....Franklin County, Otter Creek, Mississquoi Bay a focus.

Don W.: How do you deal with vegetable farm that has a few animals? Agency of Ag needs to define what a small farm is.

Vegetable farms Over 50 acres and farms with x # of animals and hobby farms

Want municipalities to reach out to those farmers to use best practices.

80% of livestock and farm issues are large farms. Education through FOVLAP, conservation districts, etc. to fill the gaps. Funding for education and technical assistance resources.....

Implementation uses the tactical basin plans (revisit every 5 years but can be updated regularly). They can provide assistance.....Names listed.....

Provide education for partners (video tape: Clean Water Vermont) brown bag series

FUNDING:

Local, federal, state, municipal, VT clean water fund. There are additional state dollars. Ag, wastewater treatment, hard surface, shoreline restoration (natural resources)

Existing grant programs (block funds distributed to programs i.e.: ERP) New eligible activities.

VT transportation: Better Roads

Agency for commerce and development: LIDAR areal mapping, pollution sources, landslides, ag problem areas, etc.

Raising awareness for fund; what priorities should be

See handout: Survey ---- also submit through Bethany Sargeant , gives more flexible dollars, only for 3 years. Need to have public engaged. Provide initial funding (needs to be long term) public meetings for long term direction.

How long before you may see a difference?

Efforts have helped stop degradation. They are looking at a 20 year program. It took generations to get to the current point. Moving forward there will be continuous improvement and yearly as well as 2 years report cards. Continually evaluations will happen. Improvement will begin at local levels and will take time to see results in Champlain. Fed penalties will happen if the goals are not being met. 2.5 year check in's will be level of implementation. Are the failures of the state specific or systemic? Outreach needs to be engaging the public

Bruce Barter: Assuming there hope for improvement, what is different is that doing this in a state way to leverage dollars targeting the problem areas

Question: Best practices seem similar to CO2 sequestration..... bio digester, riparian barriers, forest all for carbon sequestration. Is there more funding to help for the CO2 combining with water quality?

Those co-benefit opportunities have not looked into.

Question: Is New York State working on this issue of Lake Champlain? Yes there is cooperation with New York on the plan. New York is older ours is recently adopted. Used new date, to find it has been wetter. This creates a capacity to hold more phosphorus. New York saw the data and met to discuss New York's capacity. We are committed to reopening the whole Champlain water quality as a whole. Using common practices

Can we go look at data to look at inflows and outflows, to see the concentrations and adjust, similar to carbon. Reductions need to be below the outflows....where is the data to show.

We are now reducing the source.

Peggy B: Lake Champlain Regional Partnership: (federal program) are there programs for the whole state (NRCS has been offering on competitive process RCPP) multi state, 16 million, goal to work with ag to provide technical assistance. To reduce all sources at the farm, forest reduce erosion, wetland restoration. (State programs Memphremagog, CT River) ag forest needs at state level,

Small farm outreach, wetland restoration, increase partners with conservation district.

Seymour; location of alternative energy siting, PSB does not have to follow regulation as the rest of the state. Are they connected with the laws and programs? Actions must follow/comply with state law, recently passed bill for municipalities to regulate siting if the town plans are updated to standards not written yet. Energy siting: Billy Coster ANR for regulatory changes, Regional planning commissions. Water quality and non-point source ... NOAA is updating technical bulletins extreme weather information (Atlas 14) hydrological information. VT storm water uses best updated information for sizing projects.

Solar siting in wetlands....legislation has changed recommendation to stay engaged and informed.

ACT 64: Specific regulatory conditions, general roads, >3ac, agency transportation permit.

Lake Reports: One Minute – One Issue: See Separate document

Aquatic Invasive species (AIS) on Vermont's Doorstep: Josh Mulhollem

AIS – Josh Mulhollem (on a National team designing boats/trailers to make AIS harder to transport) Water Chesnut, Milfoil, Zebra Mussels.

New threats to be aware of: Asian clams, spiny water flea, hydrilla, starry stonewort.

Asian Clams: small mollusks yellowish/greenish, cardinal tooth that distinguish from natives. Sandy substrates don't attach but, can produce up to 4,000 per year. Dominate biomass. They can deplete nutrients in water column as well as substrates. In Lake George basin for the last several years, they have a robust, expensive program using benthic barrier to smother anything under them. Pull out in winter and assess in late fall. This method can be successful.....but, have to install mats every year to keep control. Clams spawn in June through December. There is a high probability spawning going on under the mats. Not in the silty sediments they like the sand bottoms. Sometimes they occur around plants in silty areas. Not so much in swimming areas as human activity stirs up sediment. Not in canal to Champlain that they have seen. Do not attach. They can damage infrastructure but, not like mussels. It is the eco impacts with depletion of food source. Are there natural predators? Maybe some sunfish, round goby's but nothing native that will have impact on populations. Very small like zebra mussels.

Spiny water flea: Is in Lake Champlain since 2014, all through lake within a few months. They are large zooplankton (large centimeter). They have occurred in the Great Lakes since the mid 80's and Lake George 2012. Both lakes have a high density of infestation.

Easy to spread, stick to gear, test yearly in many lakes. Highest profile lakes first and as many as possible.

Possibly we could incorporate with Lay Monitoring or VIP. Equipment needed include special nets and microscopes to identify. Fisherman that troll for lake trout see Spiny Water Flea on their lines. Spread prevention is the key to control. They don't live out of water for very long. Resting Eggs can stay viable for up to a month out of water or up to 2 years in a damp/wet environment. Range upper mid-west, Ontario and spreading east.

Hydrilla (*hydrilla verticillata*): 5 leaves coming out of a whorl, underground tubers or buds. Densities create oxygen issues and will grow deeper than many other macrophytes. They can spread by fragments as well. They grow 15ft in height or more. It is in Pickerel Pond in New Hampshire. They can be managed with consistency for 10 or more years (yearly herbicide).

Starry Stonewort: macro algae, Michigan lakes. It is in Lake Memphremegog (south bay) as outlier. Star shaped bulb, long strands. Healthy growth cycles even through winter.

Questions:

Water Lilies: Is there an issue if they cover large area. Not environmental unless oxygen depletion that affect fishes.

ANC – a couple of places that control noninvasive plants. (Sharon and Groton have permits that control) Hand harvesting does not need permit. Chemicals absolutely need permits.

Prevention: If you have a greeter program or cleaning boat programs. Does the state of VT pay for facilities? Standards for watercraft inspection, how to use decontamination equipment (hot water high pressure unit) are adapted and information is available. Does the state provide equipment ---no. Some associations are building cold water stations and greeter can be trained to use. Hot water is available. There are some grants available. The manual for water craft inspection/greeter manual could be posted on the FOVLAP website.

Josh has a portable hot water that goes to various lakes. Suggestion to goU-tube and make a video.

*Seymour has 5 rolls of bathometric barriers at the 2012 price. Once they are sold there will be a donation of large sections of barrier to lakes that are in need.

Panel Discussion on Clean Water – Vermont Agency of Agriculture (Ag)/ Transportation(VTrans), WSMD Water Shed Management Division, Farmer

Panel Presenters:

*Vermont Agency of Agriculture -Ryan Patch

*Watershed Management Division - Bethany Sargent

*Agency of Transportation - Gina Campoli

*Independent Consultant working with Farmers - Joanna Lidback

***Gina Campoli –Policy Planning and Project Development**

Brochures: Transportation Water Quality and Roads, Funding

Lake Champlain's TMDL shows contributions of nutrient loading,

Vermont roads = 20% Paved and 80% unpaved roads.

3 times across US if you laid roads end to end in VT

Most roads are managed by the local municipalities

Roads are conveyances of storm water, and pollutants.

Problem storm drains that discharge, erosion of soils from adjacent of roadways, improperly installed culverts

Mitigation needs to:

Detain and absorb the water

Ditches, provide sheet flow and infiltration, adequately sized and stabilized

VTrans responsible: Funding, outreach and technical assistance, state roads general permit

The state cannot do it alone need stakeholder involvement is of most importance- \$3.9 million has been spent this year.

Municipal roads permit:

DEC jurisdiction limited to /ROW. Places with discharges to waterways. Erosion risk Inventory, towns will prioritize. 2018-2021 implementations

Ryan Patch: Agency of Agriculture

Focus of the agency is educating best practices and outreach

Areas looking to raise performance standard:

Required practices:

Engage in rule making process to revise aps 1996. Size scale and type of farms in VT\

Review and revision

What is a small farm, regulation regular inspection program

200 cows =medium farm

Setbacks, soil health, buffer zones, livestock exclusion standards, nutrient

Effective by first of December standards to be raised

Farms contribute 40% of phosphorus loading to Champlain.

Funding for non-regulatory (work with farmers in mitigation/implementation)

Materials are available on the back table

JoAnna Lidback – Owner operator of a farm on Lake Willoughby

Her farm includes 55 head of dairy cows

Economic, environmental, social responsibility (?)

Works with other farms that need to go through the process of having to be accountable to the new law ACT 64

Bethany Sargeant – Watershed Management

Her department is responsible for setting limits of TMDL on Champlain – serving 800 lakes in Vermont benefits

Phase 1:

Upland land management: Identifying lakes with declining water quality

Lake Score Card – tool for declining water quality trends

Understanding the impacts of the actions

Tactical Basin planning

Identifying activities have the greatest impact. Pulling partners together to do assessments, make recommendations for actions restoration, protection.

The “Clearwater” survey on line-where to allocate funds

TMDL phase 1 implementing planning meetings soon. Comment period 30 days

Clean water funds are sun setting , need to engage project funding.

ERP funding opportunities are available on line. New round of funding in September

Questions:

VTrans- does request for funding come from private road owners or municipalities.

VTrans is for public roads only at this time. Better roads for public roads only. Public roads are regulated under the permit. Private roads are not covered by permit

Perry Thomas (Watershed Management Program Director) suggests the clean water survey could be used for concerns over private roads and the impact on water. How the clean water funds be used.

Lake Iroquois: Recreation district which incorporates 4 towns.

Major legislation coming to prioritize, implement, inventory.....municipalities need the funds do the work.

How do lake associations get involved prioritize for water quality?

Towns need to field erosion test inventory and GIS analysis. Information will give the information to VTTrans and municipalities needed. Planning commissions can help.

Derby: State Roads with lots of sediment, go to DOT district,

Stream instability and forest lands: what mitigation would be done for phosphorus contribution?

Allowing streams to go the natural route and access floodplains. Forest accepted management practices (logging roads, etc.)

Working under regulation is part of cost of doing business how do farmers keep up with the cost and the economic impact? Offer resources to help with the management strategy that won't be costly, /farm planning and management . Small farmers could be impacted more. Things like cover cropping can comply and make farms more efficient and benefit communities.

Where are the restrictions that limit drawn on small farms? Proposed changes, technical help for all size farms, outreach for specifically small farms <4acres or making more than \$2000 (cow numbers 5 , horses, other # for other livestock).

Farm to market roads in Vermont? Agency of agriculture does not have anything like that.

CRP – buffers for river corridors

Equip. program -fences, cement pad for manure stacking

FSA (Farm Service Agency)

NRCS

FOVLAP sponsored Scholarship:

Kelsey Jacobs from Braintree, Lyndon State environmental studies

Lake reports: See Separate Report

Lakes and Ponds: Perry Thomas

Lake Wise expanding program for people interested in finding out more.

Local contractors can be trained for no mow zone.

Trainings for interdepartmental staff on lake friendly practices

Fish access issues. Leaving shanties is a problem for associations.

Perry on geese: aggressive intervention available call her.

Bruce B.: Fish and Wildlife does not work well with associations.

Josh: Dept. of corrections takes care of some maintenance cheaply. Shacks are a problem for them. It's about cost to them.

Jim Canders: Lake has a state park that smaller boats use. /there is no greeter program there. State park does not inspect. Need a place for boat wash. Perry said space can be found.

Please submit to Bruce Tanner greeter surveys. He will compile and get posted.

He encourages lake safety programs.

Shirt door prize courtesy Lake Morey association. The winner of drawing is.....Lake St Catherine, Jim Canders

Don Weaver thanked everyone for coming and presenting, asking questions and participating is this important annual meeting.

Motion to Adjourn at 2:50 Art Brooks 2nd Beth. Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Jo Teetor