



FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Monday, June 7, 2021

The FOVLAP Board of Directors discussed the following at its June 7, 2021 meeting:

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

- Summer is busy with staff out in the field. 9 seasonal employees have been hired added to 12 regular full-time staff and 1 ECO-Americorps staff.
- Permit applications are increasing, with record numbers of applications over the last few months
- Lakes and Ponds enforcement referrals are also increasing. They are up to about 7 to 8 % of all enforcement actions this year, up from about 6% before the pandemic. Lakes and Ponds is collaborating with DEC enforcement officers on these enforcement actions and in a few cases, citations and fines have been issued.
- FY 22 Budget looks ok. There has been an uptick in permit applications overall which has led to uptick in permit revenue. The funds from the American rescue plan are also providing additional project revenue to DEC.
- DEC staff will continue to work fully remotely until the end of the summer. On September 1 there will be a new policy about where they will work. It is expected to combine remote work with time in the office as needed.
- Watershed Action Plans: There are six being funded: 4 by the Lake Champlain Basin Program and 2 by DEC. Work on these will be getting started over the next couple of months. The expectation is that they will come up with template and methodology for doing these plans which will lead to implementable projects. VT DEC will continue to roll these plans out for other lakes, assuming there is continued interest and funding.
- Dam safety: water levels, dam safety, and dam removals are a hot topic this summer. Agreements with Green Mountain Power for hydroelectric power supply, some dam removal / safety actions, and drought conditions are keeping

water levels low so far around the state. We are continuing to see other groups like Vermont Natural Resources Council who are focused on dam removal and restoring natural hydrologic regimes of rivers which can be perceived as coming into conflict with the VT Water Quality Standards Requirement for limiting hydrologic manipulations on B2 waters in a way that maintains all designated uses on water bodies. We are trying to work through this.

- Lake Memphremagog: A first meeting with DUMP is coming up to plan for a broader community meeting that Secretary Julie Moore will lead.
- So far, the aeration at Lake Carmi has been working and they have not seen any internal legacy phosphorus loading into the water column.

**Review of Lake Seminar (Jackie):** Jackie gave a huge thanks to the committee for all their hard work and a special shoutout to Laura who did such a great job facilitating the seminar and introducing the presenters. Attendance was good – 85 devices logged on but with recognition that more than one person was “attending” on the same device, so estimates are closer to 100. About 15 surveys have been returned so far, but a reminder is going out so expect to receive more. Of those returned so far, 76% preferred one primary focus. 60% preferred a mixed format (online & in-person).

**AIS Support Committee update (Jack):** The group is in the process of sending out a questionnaire about greeter programs. They plan to share the results with the newsletter committee, the board, all those who completed the survey, Oliver, and Kim. .

**Wake Boats Ad Hoc Committee (Jack):** This is a group of self -selected, highly motivated, mostly property owners on lakes who are interested in having wake boats banned on their lakes. This group is moving forward to submit a petition to ANR in the next several months.

**Events Committee – Annual Meeting (Jackie):** Jackie learned that due to a glitch only the second half of the Lake Seminar was recorded. However, they do have copies of all the presentations. Next events committee meeting will be June 21.

**Legislative Updates (Jay):** Status of the two bills that the committee has been following:

H. 175 Bottle Redemption stalled in Senate will probably be taken up during the next legislative session.

H 439 Budget was delivered to the Governor on June 2.

Chris von Alt thought the following article about oligotrophic lakes in Vermont would be of interest: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=91091858e4&attid=0.1.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1701920559834411328&th=179e6fbb64dd3140&view=att&disp=inline>