



FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Monday, October 4, 2021

SUMMARY MINUTES

Present: Jackie, Pat, Ann, Roger, Jan, Jack, Chrissie, Bruce T, Jay, Jeri, Dave, Peggy, Bruce B, Chris vA, Tracey, Oliver, Kent

The Board of Directors recognized the recent loss of Don Weaver, and discussed ways in which FOVLAP will recognize Don for his contributions to the organization.

DEC/ANR Update: (Oliver Pierson)

- Work is proceeding on the 2023 budget. The American Rescue Plan Act is helping with the funding needed for open positions, and there are increases in the budget for the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) and overall funds for the Watershed Management Division.
- DEC proposes to increase fees for lake encroachment, shoreland permitting and aquatic nuisance control.
- Three lakes have submitted petitions for reclassification to A1 status: Maidstone, Caspian, and Echo. Maidstone's application is administratively complete. VT Water Quality Standards and DEC Surface Water Listing and Assessment Methodology documents are used for assessment decisions and Listing and Assessment Methodology documents will be updated this year.
- Lake associations should be notified to send pre-proposals for LCBP technical projects – Watershed Action Plans are encouraged.
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) funding should be available for another year or two but there is a marked increase in application for Aquatic Nuisance Control grants. The annual amount from motorboat registration fees exceeds the program cost.
- PFAS sampling in Lake Memphremagog on both the US and Canadian side is ongoing with two rounds completed and another round to be done in October. All samples but two were below detection and those two samples were just barely detected. Currently leachate from the Coventry pretreatment facility is being trucked to Montpelier, treated there and released into the Winooski River.
- DEC upgraded the dam at Miles Pond and is working with the Town of Concord to implement some lake wise/lake friendly practices for the public swimming area.
- DEC is working with the Town of Colchester to find a way to get funding to develop a new recreation management plan for Mallets Bay, an extremely busy bay with great lake access.

Discussion followed concerning the efforts needed to enforce the Shoreland Protection Act (SPA).

The Board approved both the minutes from the previous meeting and the financial report. Funds that were not used for the annual meeting will be directed toward two VSAC scholarships and toward upgrading the website.

The Board is asked annually to review Roles and Responsibilities. Committees, committee chairs, and committee membership lists and responsibilities were reviewed. A new Public Relations Committee will be formed, tasked with the responsibility to 'get the word out' about FOVLAP's activities. An ad hoc water quality committee has been meeting and might potentially become a new FOVLAP committee. The website will be going through an update to make it active and user-friendly.

### **UVM Project**

Board member, Jackie Sprague, partnered with two students in a UVM summer class that set out to help organizations solve problems. Jackie presented information about FOVLAP in meetings with the students and together they decided to work on the 'problem' of encouraging younger individuals to become interested and to join FOVLAP. The students then worked on their own to find possible solutions and presented their ideas in a document and Power Point presentation. The solution was to have a student intern join us. A committee will be set-up to decide the role of the intern and funding sources will be found.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Policies Ad Hoc Committee:**

Board members approved and signed five policies: Harassment; Committee Membership; Conflict of Interest; Code of Conduct; Auxiliary Board Membership. Also approved and signed was the Core Values Statement. All of these went into effect immediately. Other policies are being written and/or reviewed at this point.

#### **Legislative Committee:**

A new wake boat bill was drafted by its sponsor, Rep. Tim Briglin from Thetford, who is Chair of Energy and Technology and was sent to Legislative Counsel recently. This new bill will be introduced in January when the session reconvenes and will be going through its committee of jurisdiction, which is the Senate Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife.

### **The Board endorsed the following wake statement concerning artificially enhanced wakes:**

*Consistent with the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) mission to preserve and protect Vermont's lakes, ponds and their watersheds for the benefit of this and future generations, the FOVLAP Board recognizes and is concerned about artificially enhanced large wakes and the powerful propeller wash produced during wakeboarding and wake surfing activities and their effects on public safety, shoreline erosion, property damage, ecosystem disruption, aquatic invasive species (AIS) spread, and water quality. In addition, the voluminous ballasts on vessels used for these sports significantly increase the risk of lake-to-lake AIS spread since such devices by design cannot be fully drained of water and are effectively impossible to inspect or decontaminate.*

### **Vermont Aquatic Invasive Species Decal program:**

The intent of this program is to make it mandatory for any person operating a power boat from another state to purchase and display a decal to support AIS management and prevention. Part of the funds generated from the decal purchases would go to Fish and Wildlife for enforcement and potentially also for improvement of boat access areas, boat washes and greeter programs. Maine

and New Hampshire have successful decal programs in place. The Legislative Committee requested and received approval from the board to continue to work with legislators and state staff on developing such a program for Vermont.

**Short Programs Offered During the Winter Months:**

Discussions will be started about the possibility of FOVLAP offering educational/informational gatherings during the winter months.

Respectfully submitted:

Jerilyn Bergdahl