



FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Monday, November 1, 2021

SUMMARY MINUTES

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

President's Time:

There are no BOD meetings scheduled until January, however, several committee meetings will take place.

Bruce T. will step down from the Board but will continue as an Auxiliary Board member.

The Board approved both the minutes from the previous meeting and the financial report.

DEC / ANR Update: (Oliver Pierson)

Lake Bomoseen Indian Point Use of Public Waters Petition

A use of public waters petition was received from Lake Bomoseen concerning Indian point. Weekends and holidays up to 100 boats moor in the area, creating use problems for residents. The petition asks to prevent mooring of boats less than 200ft from shoreline; has been marked administratively complete and has been sent for attorney review.

Reclassification to A1 Petitions

Lakes Maidstone, Caspian and Echo, Charleston. Caspian petition was recently submitted. Maidstone is ready to be marked administratively complete but is on hold due to DEC Leadership trying to decide how to advance with these petitions and achieve a legislative fix on the 10 VSA 1259 1,000 gallon per day legislative issue. The need for the legislative fix is brought into focus by the situation at Maidstone where state park expansion plans may be at odds with lake protection through reclassification due to the A1 limitation on new septic. There is also an ongoing process to revise DEC's Surface Water Listing and Assessment Methodology. If phosphorus data from 10 years using summer means and a one-tailed T test, the phosphorus level for Caspian and Echo fall below 12 ug/L and they are eligible for A1 reclassification.

State Fiscal Year July 2022 Budget.

Commissioner Walke and Secretary Moore will make decisions about which elements of the permitting program fees the state will allow to be amended and considered as part of the SFY23 Budget Bill.

An example: fees for AIS permitting don't come close to the cost of the permitting programs. Normally, 75% of the money for grants comes from motorboat registration (MBR), but a portion of that money can also be used for administration. DEC has been using the allowable amount of MBR fees to cover staff salaries working on AIS control since the pandemic started. As a result, grant awards may become more competitive with only half the amount available in 2023. If fees increase, staffing issues can be addressed

for three positions still open. The decal idea could be a new source of revenue but would probably not cover the \$100,000 to \$200,000 gap.

Clean Water Investment Funds

Outside the Champlain Basin – Oliver urged lake associations to reach out for DEC-funded Lake Watershed Action grants. Opportunities exist to fund at least two in 2022 with DEC funds. This year’s LCBP request for technical pre-proposals (which could fund Lake Watershed Action Plans) are not hard to do and should be submitted to the Lake Champlain Basin program before Nov. 8, 2021.

Issue of Shoreline Protection Act (SPA) concerning “pervious” decks on the shoreline.

A loophole in the SPA is being addressed. Decks are considered impervious but there are standards that have them considered as pervious; i.e. as long as no vegetation is being cleared to establish them they are considered pervious structures and can’t be regulated. Because of this loophole, people are building decks between the house and mean water level in a manner that DEC does not believe to be consistent with the intent of the Shoreland Protection Act.

Request for FOVLAP Support of Wake Enhanced Boat Petition/FOVLAP Enhanced Wake Statement:

A letter from Meg Handler was presented requesting a letter of support from FOVLAP for the petition written by Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes. The Executive Committee met and expressed concern about writing a letter of support as the petition currently stands. A short statement of concern for wake enhanced watercraft had already been approved by the board at the October meeting. Executive Committee members prepared a longer, revised enhanced wake statement and presented it to the board as an alternative to the letter of support. This longer, revised statement was adopted and was placed on the website and FaceBook page.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative: (Chrissie)

Emails have been sent to several Reps and Senators seeking an AIS boat decal bill with success. Rep. Kari Dolan from House Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife (HNRFF&W) expressed she would be honored to support a bill, sent in a bill request around Oct 12th, and also reached out to Representative and Senators. The bill is currently under draft with legislative counsel and fellow co-sponsors of the bill will be determined after the bill draft is complete.

Public Relations/Newsletter: (Jackie)

The newly formed committee met for first time with a goal to promote, support and disseminate information about FOVLAP in many different ways. The newsletter committee met and is in the process of producing a fall/winter newsletter that should be out in January.

Public Relations/Website: (Ann/Angela)

The committee is working on updating the current website and beginning to plan for a complete redesign for 2022. The board approved a motion permitting the website committee to move forward with issuing an RFP for website redesign with a budget of \$5000-\$7000.

Nominating: (Jay)

There are three vacancies on the Board and work is being done on a document that will explain responsibilities and the time commitment of Board members.

Grants: (Ann)

FOVLAP’s Lake Champlain Basin Project (LCBP) Education and Outreach grant ends December 31st. We have one eligible project left, the fall/winter 2021 newsletter, which will be delayed, but LCBP has approved this extended timing. The final reporting obligation is a written summary report of all covered activities, which must be submitted by Jan 20th.

Ad Hoc Policies: (Kent)

Document Retention and Grants policies were sent to the attorney and Media and Social policies are nearly ready to send for review. The Documents Retention policy decisions will be based on Vermont laws. The Grants policy was returned by the attorney without much mark-up.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 10th, 2022

BOD members gave sincere thanks to Bruce T. for all the work he has done through the years while being Treasurer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 am