FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 4, 2022  Summary Minutes

• Jerremy Jones appointed to the FOVLAP Board of Directors. FOVLAP is seeking to fill two additional board openings. Contact us if you are interested or know of someone interested.

• FOVLAP’s President, Pat Suozzi, described outreach efforts with a goal to bring lake association presidents together on a regular basis to support one another. These efforts will increase the ability: to be heard by State officials; to tackle nuisance control efforts; to work on funding issues.

• Setting the Record Straight: Board concerns about the inaccuracies currently being spread concerning aquatic nuisance control in recent VT Digger editorials were addressed in a recent commentary by Auxiliary Board member, Ann Bove. View commentary.

• Successful Event: “Early Identification of Aquatic Invasive Species in VT Lakes and Ponds- How to Launch, Grow and Nurture a Lake Inspection Program” held April 6th. Sixty-seven registrants for the half-day event; reviews excellent. View the event

• Free Virtual Lake Seminar June 3, 2022, 9am-3pm: Topics: celebration of 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act; recognition of lay monitors; climate change impacts on lakes. Speakers are: Peter Isles, Steve Paulson, Jane Lazorchak, Dr. Mindy Morales, Dr. Ken Wagner. Look for registration links on the FOVLAP website soon.

• 18 Applications for 2- $500 Scholarships Awarded by FOVLAP: applications are being processed and scholarships will be awarded soon. Many applicants this year are studying climate change as it affects our earth in general.

• Website Redesign: Marketing Partners was chosen to re-design FOVLAP’s website with plans for the new design to be presented by the Annual Meeting. On-going discussion of design ideas continues on the app, Basecamp, a helpful way to keep everyone working on the project up to date each day.

• Membership/membership renewals available on the website Membership

• Four Active Bills the Board Approved to Support: S.148, Environmental Justice bill H. 492 Structure of Nat. Resources H.626 Neonicotinoids H.466 Surface Water Withdrawals, which has passed the House and is now in the Senate. A ‘bill comment template’ to be used for letters of support was prepared by the Legislative committee and was approved by the board. The template will be used for further support of S.148 and H.466. Legislature Updates

DEC / ANR Update (Oliver Pierson)
-Bomoseen Update
The commentary and inaccurate information that has recently been in the VT Digger concerning aquatic invasive species and their control in Lake Bomoseen was a topic that Oliver was asked to address by board members. There is a
willingness to issue new fact sheets from DEC. From the state’s perspective, there is statute in VT that clearly defines AIS and strong precedent for milfoil control, which is not going to change, and inaccurate commentary won’t affect the state’s position. What will be unique or different will be the public good determination. Lake Bomoseen has the largest proposed acres for treatment, and there could be alternative treatments for some of the acres besides herbicide.

-Tile Drains
Tile drains are important for farmers to manage moisture and increase yields. As more tile is added by farmers it can lead to concentrated phosphorus (P) being delivered into a ditch and then into streams after storm events. We regulate these fields as a non-point source. To meet future TMDL goals for Champlain and Memphremagog, tile drains are a very ‘pointy’ non-point source after storm events. The subject is nuanced and variable and not as simple as all tile is bad or all tile is good.

-Update to Lake Carmi Crisis Response Plan
Updated crisis response plan has been completed and shared with the Carmi group for feedback. When completed will be posted on the website. It basically lists all the activities in the Lake Carmi watershed over the next year or two and is updated from 2018. An important step forward for Lake Carmi.

-LWAP Resource and Funding / Contracting for Morey, Willoughby, and Shadow Lake Glover
Will be adding more content to the Lake Watershed Action Plan page on the DEC website and also input from LWAP partners. We’ve decided on the service provider for the Morey, Willoughby and Shadow Lake Glover LWAPs, which will be made public soon.

-Hiring (Lake Shoreland Coordinator, Temps, Community Scientist idea)
DEC is close to a decision on hiring a Lake Shoreland Coordinator, and is also in the process of recruiting seven summer temporary employees to help out with field programs. Will continue to explore the idea of a Community Science position that would manage both LaRosa and lay monitoring, in order to bring lay monitoring back into DEC staff oversight and achieve enhanced synergies with the LaRosa Program. The LMP oversight is currently being done by Mark Mitchell, who is a UVM Sea Grant employee; 50% funded by DEC and 50% by UVM.

-Lake Reclassification Update
Four petitions are in. There is still hope that the Legislature would be encouraged by our current leadership or anyone else to consider a Legislative fix to the provision on ‘no new septic greater than a 1000 gal./day in Class A watersheds.’

-Update on Clean Water Initiative Program Funding for Shoreland Restoration
Currently in progress of updating the page that identities funding for lakeshore restoration projects for the Clean Water Investment Program (CWIP). So much is changing with funding now that Act 76 is getting going. The update will be up on the DEC website soon and will be shared with FOVLAP.

-Municipal Roads General Permit Revision and Lakeshore Exemption
The Municipal Roads General Permit governs conditions for roads. Towns must comply in next 5-10 years to improve conditions of municipal roads to reduce storm water run-off. The lake shore exemption applies when there is a stretch of road in the 0-250 ft. protected lakeshore area from mean water level, and there is no mowing between the road and the lake, which is not well understood or complied with and is under consideration for revision.

Ice out on South Pond, Eden, VT.