FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
June 6, 2022  Summary Minutes

- **Newsletter available on the website:** Celebrating FOVLAP’s 50th Year
- **Membership/membership renewals** available on the website  
  Membership
- **2022 Vermont Lake Seminar highly successful:** The virtual event; celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, recognized volunteer lay monitors who have served their lake communities for 30 years or more, provided timely information for how climate change will affect lakes, and attracted over 90 registrants. Evaluations were overwhelmingly positive for nine presentations. A [video of the event](https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/rulemaking) is available.
- **The Lake Champlain Basin Opportunities for Action Funding Plan** is now available at [https://www.lcbp.org/about-us/grants-rfps/](https://www.lcbp.org/about-us/grants-rfps/)
- **Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes**, submitted a petition to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, entitled, “Proposed Change to § 3 for Managing Wake Boats and Their Activities on Vermont Lakes and Ponds” ([link to petition](https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/rulemaking)). FOVLAP is polling lake associations for a sense of membership support/non-support concerning the petition. DEC will hold two Public Informational Meetings on the Wake boat Petition. The purpose of the meetings is to take comment on the petitions as part of the pre-rulemaking phase of petition review, not to discuss their merits, and these comments will inform DEC’s decision on whether or not to initiate rulemaking.  
  - June 29 Meeting in Richmond VT
  - July 7 Meeting in Manchester Center VT
- **FOVLAP Legislative Committee** reported that of the 19 environmental bills they followed, most did not receive a committee hearing or they died in committee. Seven bills have been signed by Gov. Scott.
- **FOVLAP’s New Website** design process is well underway. Webpage content is being revised and added and a new logo being evaluated. Member engagement is a top priority.

**DEC / ANR Update (Oliver Pierson)**

**DEC Office Update:** Remote work agreements are still in effect. The state will continue to rent office spaces in the National Life building, and employees attend meetings in the buildings.

**Herbicide Petition and Lake Bomoseen** – Last week the Lake Bomoseen Assoc. (LBA) and the Lake Bomoseen Preservation Trust (LBPT) formally requested that DEC put their herbicide permit application on technical hold. They’ve paid their application fees, and there are several options. The application may sit on technical hold indefinitely, they can request DEC to resume or withdraw their application, or they can submit a revised application with a more focused proposed treatment area. DEC has received many phone calls and letters that oppose herbicide use, but not many that referenced peer-reviewed studies or that have scientific backing. DEC is responding to these people that the application is on hold and has no further comment until they receive instructions from the applicants.

**DEC Funding, Budgeting, Staffing** - State Fiscal 2023 starts July 1, 2022. Upward pressures on the budget means that DEC will start SFY23 with up to six vacancies to accrue vacancy savings and balance the budget. Of these six vacancies, both Amy Picotte’s old position and Lindsey Miller’s permitting position are currently being held vacant, resulting in only 3 people in lakes permitting. One position in lakes and ponds will not be filled for all of SFY23 and it’s unknown when the other vacant lakes permitting position will be filled. The general Fund has increased a small amount but not enough to meet staffing needs. A key thing that DEC
will try to achieve next year and is way overdue is the fee bill, which will increase fees for permitting and hasn’t changed since 2016.

ACT 76 clean water money is being directed toward clean water service providers in the Champlain and Memphremagog basins. Up to $5mil/year of that money is called Water Enhancement Grants and programed to be used on water quality enhancement including; preservation, restoration, protection of high quality waters across the state. Oliver encouraged FOVLAP to continue to explore these grants, i.e.. for Lake Wise work as well as Watershed Action Plans and project implementation.

**Austin Pond – Dam Removal Discussions.** New owners purchased the land on which the dam sits. The owners realized they didn’t have the means to comply to the new dam safety rules and are considering dam removal. There is money for dam removal but no public money to restore dams. Removing the dam would lower the level of pond significantly affecting camp owners and recreational uses. Many dams are privately owned and many lakes have been made because of dams.

**From ‘Music of Nature’ – Hear the sounds at the website.** CREDITS: Photos and descriptions taken from *Frogs and Toads of North America* by Lang Elliott, Carl Gerhardt, and Carlos Davidson. Photos © Lang Elliott, unless otherwise indicated. Recordings © Lang Elliott.