



FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS January 9, 2023 Summary Minutes

[Fall 2022/Winter 2023 Newsletter](#) now available on the website.

- **Mini-webinar Tuesday, February 21, 2023 noon-1:30p via Zoom:** Alison Marchione, Lake Shoreland Coordinator, will give an “Overview of the Lake Wise Program”. Find information and registration [here](#).
- **Very successful Mini-webinar “Emerging Aquatic Invasive Species in Vermont Inland Lakes”** was held Jan. 19, 2023. Find the recording [here](#). Experts discussed: hydrilla, round goby, and spiny and fishhook water fleas.
- [Statement Concerning the Reduction of Resources for the Control of Aquatic Invasive Species](#) (AIS) was approved by the board, member associations and others and is posted on the website.
- FOVLAP’s legislative committee is monitoring bills concerning water and related topics. An [AIS Decal bill H.51](#), was introduced by Representative Kari Dolan and others as a way to help fund AIS prevention by requiring all in-state and out-of-state watercraft to purchase and display a decal. All funds collected go towards AIS prevention efforts, which have been underfunded and recently cut – See statement above.
- **Rule-making by DEC on wake boats is proceeding.** A hybrid public meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 15, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m** at the Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St, Greensboro, VT 05841, and online via Microsoft Teams. Any person can [sign up](#) to provide verbal feedback only on the proposed draft rule in person, or through the virtual platform. Oral statements will be limited to two minutes. For more information click [here](#). To view the draft rule click [here](#).
- See other water and related bills being monitored by FOVLAP’s Legislative committee: [Legislative Updates](#).

New FOVLAP Website: Content for the new FOVLAP website is being added regularly. Want to know more about the board of directors. Check out their [bios](#)!

- Recently added information to [Protecting Lakes and Ponds](#) can be found on water quality, shoreland protection, watershed issues, and AIS. **Check out: “[Cyanobacteria](#)”**
- **One director still needed to complete the FOVLAP board.** Please send any potential nominees to Jay White.
- **Membership/membership renewals** available on the website [Member Community](#). Please take a moment to update your member and association profiles.

DEC/ANR Update: Oliver Pierson

Staffing – Olin Reed, the new aquatic nuisance control permitting specialist, will gradually take over permitting responsibilities from Misha Cetner, and will also support Kim Jensen with AIS program activities working on the greeter program in particular. Pete Stangel, lead monitor for Lake Champlain, retired and was replaced by Kelsey Colbert. Will continue to carry one vacant position deliberately to accrue vacancy savings.

AIS Grant-in-Aid Program – funds greeter programs and AIS management projects. After trying to outsource grant management via a block grant model, which failed, Kim Jensen will have the large task to manage and administer 30-40 grants. The grant fund is down to \$350,000 for the coming year, there will be fewer grants, some prioritization in RFP and some projects will be prioritized over others. Evaluation and scoring will be clearly defined. RFP should come out this month.

Wake Boat Rule-Making – Oliver heard from Sec. Moore and understands that DEC can proceed with rule-making based on the proposal that was shared with ANR leadership team prior to the holidays. One final pre-rulemaking meeting for public comment will take place on the draft rules since they are different than rules proposed by the petition shared with the public. Content will be available prior to the meeting for review and so that verbal comments can be prepared on the concept of the draft rules, not the current wording. DEC will then

proceed to formal rulemaking and schedule a meeting with ICAR (Interagency Committee on Administrative Rule-making). The concept will be put into ‘formal legal rule language’ after submission to ICAR and there will be yet another hearing between ICAR and LCAR to take comment on the actual draft rule. Information will be advertised on the ANR website and a letter will be sent to everyone who has commented.

Aquatic Nuisance Control Statute Rule-Making– DEC has started the process to review statute 10 VSA 1455, which is the chapter on aquatic nuisance control permitting. The objective is a better framework for reviewing permit applications. A focus group of interested parties will be formed potentially consisting of: FOVLAP members Ann B, Roger C and Jeremy J; conservation and fishing organizations; state and federal agencies; ecologists; private sector folks; other interested parties. A website will be made available with information shared from the meetings.

Treating Two Lakes with Alum for phosphorus inactivation; Lake Morey and Lake Carmi. Internal loading of phosphorus from the lake bottom in summer under low oxygen conditions has led to persistent water quality issues. DEC invested millions of dollars to cut down external phosphorus loading in Lake Carmi, aeration cannot suppress internal loading at Carmi as was hoped, and it’s necessary to go in a different direction. Carmi is still a lake in crisis. Lake Morey community has funds to pay for a feasibility study, then will try to find funding for the treatment. DEC is trying to find a way to pay for the feasibility study on Lake Carmi, perhaps using Clean Water Funding, and Franklin town might take a role in funding. These lakes are unique situations. Alum is expensive and a last resort, a special treatment under unusual conditions and special cases, is not a viable water quality improvement option for most other lakes with occasional blooms and is not DEC’s new strategy.

Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!

The seven principal snow crystal types are **plates, stellar crystals, columns, needles, spatial dendrites, capped columns, and irregular forms.**



Most snowflakes are less than a half inch across. Under certain conditions, usually requiring near-freezing temperatures, light winds, and unstable atmospheric conditions, much larger and irregular flakes can form, nearing 2 inches across. Because there is so much air surrounding each of the tiny crystals in the snowpack, most of the total volume of a snow layer is made up of air.

The water equivalent of snow is more variable than most people realize. For instance, 10 inches of fresh snow can contain as little as 0.10 inches of water and as much as 4 inches of water, depending on crystal structure, wind speed, temperature, and other factors. The majority of new snowfall in the United States contains a water-to-snow ratio of between .04 and 0.10, depending on the meteorological conditions associated with the snowfall.

Particles or organisms within the snowpack may affect the color of the snow. Watermelon snow appears red or pink. This coloration is caused by a form of cold-loving, fresh-water algae that contain a bright red pigment. Watermelon snow is most common during the summertime in high alpine areas as well as along coastal polar regions. Although this snow may look candy-colored, it is not wise to eat it.