



**FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 6, 2023 Summary Minutes**

“Serving Vermont Lake Associations – How Can FOVLAP Help Today and Into the Future” Webinar on Zoom Jan. 18th at noon Register [HERE](#).

This webinar will provide a chance for participants to discuss lake challenges and to ask questions. This will help guide FOVLAP’s work. Three broad topics – sources of funding, education, and advocacy – will help guide discussions. The goal is not to gain all the answers on a particular topic from this webinar, but to foster sharing of information and to learn how FOVLAP can better serve its members.

New Eurasian Water Milfoil Page has been added to the FOVLAP website: <https://vermontlakes.org/eurasian-watermilfoil/>

FOVLAP Fall /Winter Newsletter contains a wealth of interesting articles and information. Click [HERE](#).

Oliver Pierson moved to a new position to become the Director of Forestry for the Dept. of Forest and Parks, a huge loss for Lakes and Ponds.

Wake Boat Rule – we are waiting to hear news of what will be included in the new rule. (as of 11.06.23 the rule is now published and is on its way to LCAR, although an exact date has not been determined).

Membership in FOVLAP will now be based on the calendar year. Please look for information on the “Membership Campaign,” which will begin in January.

Please Sign-up for Thursday Email Updates collected from new FOVLAP website postings in digest form.

Mini-Webinars Available for Review: Missed any of the mini-webinars? Webinars are listed on the FOVLAP website dropdown menu under Events. Click [Special Events](#) to view at your convenience.

DEC/ANR Update (Pete LaFlamme, Bethany Sargent)

Pete is Director of the Watershed Div. of DEC and Bethany the Deputy Director of the Watershed Div. of DEC. Former Commissioner, John Behling , moved to a policy position with the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection.. The new Commissioner, Jason Batchelder, was formally the chief game warden and Director of the Law Enforcement Div. at the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. Now in place for about a month, he is familiar with ANR, Vermont and Vermont issues and learning all that we do in the Watershed Management Division.

Wake Boats and Wake Boat Petitions -DEC received hundreds of comments as a result of the public meetings and is developing responses for the comments. Internal discussions are taking place about possible changes to the final rule before it is brought to LCAR, the final step in the rule making process.

Applied Nuisance Control (ANC) Act 57 Study Committee – The committee is charged to report to the legislature on Dec. 15th. Kim Jensen is chairing the committee, and members are posted on a webpage as well as links to agendas, minutes and recordings of past meetings. They are building in review time for the reports and setting time aside during the meeting and also at the end of meetings for public comments.

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/act57>

Alum Permitting in Lake Carmi and Lake Morey – Studies are completed or underway at both lakes. Internally they are working on a two part procedure. The first part of the procedure looks at: the limnology; hydrodynamics; external and internal loading; effectiveness and advisability as to whether alum would be an effective treatment. Alum is an appropriate tool to use when external loads have been effectively controlled and what's dominating the cyanobacterial outbreaks is internal loading of Phosphorus from attenuated P that exists in the sediment. If alum is considered an appropriate tool, then the permitting process begins to permit the discharge of alum consistent with water quality standards

Overall Initiative Focused on Advancing Reclassification tied closely to Developing an Anti-degradation Implementation Rule and the third intersection with the existing prohibition for systems discharging greater than a 1000 gal/day within Class A1 watersheds. This overall initiative is seeking to separate management implications for reclassification and put those instead into the permitting process through anti-degradation implementation and therefore basing reclassification solely on 'does the water quality data meet all the water quality standards for reclassification to a higher designated use. Several lakes have submitted petitions to reclassify their lakes. We see the benefit of these three components because they interact together to enhance reclassification overall and the ability to make those reclassification decisions based exclusively on data and not necessarily if this is the right management decision based on prohibiting these systems from any A1 watershed. It's a detail rich initiative in those three parts and we would appreciate your help in getting the word out. There will be an in-person meeting probably in the Newport area and also a Teams meeting for folks to join. We hope to do a better job of sorting the waters of the state into different buckets and develop appropriate water management strategies based upon their different classifications. There is a ton of misunderstanding and misinformation out there and we're hoping to clear that up.

Winterberry

Ilex verticillate, the winterberry, is a species of holly native to eastern North America and southeast Canada, from Newfoundland west to Ontario and Minnesota, and south to Alabama. Winterberry grows wild in acidic soils in forested wetlands or along edges of ponds, lakes and marshes. A deciduous shrub, it grows 3-15 ft. tall and has dark green 2-3 inch leaves and clusters of small, white flowers in the spring. Winterberry provides seasonal interest in autumn and early winter when female plants are covered in red, orange or yellow fruit. Male hollies will never develop berries, so they aren't very showy. Fortunately, only one male plant is needed to pollinate up to five female plants. The attractive bright red fruit is eaten by small mammals and more than 48 species of birds, including the American Robin, but berries are poisonous to pets and humans. However, the berries were used by native Americans for medicinal purposes, the origin of the name "fever bush".



Winterberry holly shrubs are stunningly beautiful at this time of year around our lakeshores.