





**Serving Vermont Lake Associations –
How Can FOVLAP Help Today and Into the Future?**

Advocacy In Action



Communication is key.

Our voices can make a difference!



Engage With Your Lake Community

- **Keep your lake community up-to-date by having a website and keeping it current with news of your work, maintaining a social media presence, creating newsletters, sending emails, holding meetings & events.**
- **Use of an Association website service can be helpful to maintain membership lists, assist in membership signups & renewals, keeping your site current, sending correspondence etc. You can also create your own site using tools like WordPress.**





Engage With Your Select Boards, Legislators

- **Send them your newsletters, email blasts, and other correspondence.**
- **Invite them to your events.**
- **Meet with your town manager / administrator (at least annually) to keep them informed of lake issues and activities**
- **Meet with your local Conservation Commissions to update them and seek their support for your projects and initiatives**
- **Ask to be added to the agenda for your select board and give a presentation.**
- **Ask to speak during Town Meeting Day**
- **Request in-person / online meetings with your Senators and Representatives**

You can find your Senators and Reps here: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/people/>



Recent Examples of Advocacy In Action

- **Citizens group Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL) petitioned the DEC to adopt rules for wakeboat use on Vermont waterbodies, resulting in the state undertaking a rulemaking process which it is hoped will be finalized in February**
- **Lake Associations contacted their State and local representatives, activated their membership, and testified against the bill H.31, which as introduced, sought to create a moratorium on the issuance of aquatic nuisance control permits that authorizes the use or application of pesticides, chemicals other than pesticides, or biological controls. The moratorium was removed from the bill**
- **Four Lake Associations have petitioned to be reclassified as A1 waters which would provide greater protections for these pristine waters, resulting in moving legislation to change the statute to allow this to go forward. This legislation passed the Senate last spring and is now in the House**
- **FOVLAP and Lake Associations advocated, testified, contacted legislators regarding the cuts in funds for the Grant in Aid program, resulting in a first time allocation of \$500,000 in the state budget**



Advocating At The State Legislature

- **Follow the two legislative committees concerned with our issues:**
 - **Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy:**
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2024/30>
 - **House Committee on Environment and Energy:**
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2024/19>
- **Provide oral testimony on relevant bills**
- **Provide written testimony on relevant bills**
- **Community outreach to contact your legislators to support or oppose relevant legislation**



FOVLAP's Legislative Committee actively monitors the legislature for bills that would be of interest to our members, and posts them on our website, here:
<https://vermontlakes.org/legislative-updates/>



Questions?