

Lake Champlain Leadership Learning Session

February 2, 2017

Vermont State House, Room 11

1:30 to 4:30 pm

Goal: To provide Vermont state elected and appointed leaders with a briefing by experts in the areas of science, engineering, policy and law for a learning session related to the clean water issues facing the State of Vermont, with a focus on nutrient pollution and the Lake Champlain restoration efforts.

Caveat: This presentation will not address the fiscal and budgetary issues associated with the state's clean water efforts. Recommendations and information related to fiscal challenges and opportunities will be provided by the Treasurer's office in collaboration with the Agency of Natural Resources separately.

Invited Leaders:

Executive: ANR Secretary and Commissioners, ACCD Secretary and Commissioners, AAFM Secretary, VTrans Secretary as well as the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, and Attorney General, or their designees.

Legislative: Open to all legislators with specific invitations to the Chairs and Ranking Members of House Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources, Agriculture and Forest Products, Commerce and Economic Development, Natural Resources and Energy, Transportation, Appropriations, and Ways and Means Committees; and Senate Agriculture, Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, Natural Resources and Energy, Transportation, Appropriations and Budget Committees as well as the Speaker of the House and Senate President Pro Tem or their designees.

Why Attend: Understanding the science, economics and law of clean water in Vermont is central to making informed decisions to protect this critical component of our state's quality of life and prosperity. Our rivers, streams, lakes and ponds, from the Connecticut River to Lake Champlain, and from Lake Memphremagog to the Hoosick River, are a vital component of our communities. Vermonters fish, boat, and swim in these waters. We hike, hunt and enjoy the views along their banks. Our businesses and communities thrive when our waters are clear and clean.

This session will provide important information from scientists, engineers, policy experts and attorneys who can describe our current understanding of the clean water challenges in Vermont, with a focus on the Lake Champlain watershed. Today's elected and appointed leaders have the opportunity to build on the work of Vermont's leaders across Administrations and party lines over the past several decades to tackle these challenges. This session lays the groundwork for continued work by providing the latest information from multiple disciplines in order to assist our current leaders in making good decisions.

Agenda

Format: Each session will include presentations by experts in relevant fields with specific experience working on clean water issues in Vermont, followed by a question and answer session.

Welcome and Introduction (10 minutes): **David Deen, Chair of House Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources and Chris Bray, Chair of Senate Natural Resources and Energy**

Session I (30 minutes): **Background and History of the Problem:** Speakers will explain the science behind the clean water issues facing Vermont, with a particular focus on nutrient pollution and Lake Champlain.

Session II (45 minutes): **Legal and Policy Framework:** Speakers will discuss the economic, social and governmental policy issues involved in addressing clean water issues, as well as provide an overview of clean water law and the Lake Champlain restoration plan.

Break (15 minutes)

Session III (70 minutes): **Solutions:** Speakers will discuss the major stressors on Vermont's waters (polluted stormwater runoff from developed lands, roads and agriculture, and streambank erosion, along with strategies for addressing these sources of pollution.

Wrap-up and Future Challenges (10 minutes): **Julie Moore, Secretary of Natural Resources**