

**From:** Buzz Hoerr [hoerrfam@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 4:29 PM  
**To:** Markowitz, Deb  
**CC:** Mears, David; MacLean, Alex  
**Subject:** RE: Ecosystem Restoration Program discussion with VTCAC and other groups

Thanks Deb, had a good talk with David on Fri when he brought Steve Perkins to the watershed group meeting in Shelburne. We'll go ahead with the April CAC meeting with Eric, Neil and Pete to go over all of this, including the TMDL process.

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From: Deb.Markowitz@state.vt.us  
To: hoerrfam@msn.com  
CC: David.Mears@state.vt.us; Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us  
Date: Sun, 27 Mar 2011 10:11:49 -0400  
Subject: RE: Ecosystem Restoration Program discussion with VTCAC and other groups

Hi Buzz,

Thanks for sending me a copy of the email discussion about changes to Clean and Clear. You and the CAC have my personal assurance that our administrative decision to house the program with our other clean water programs does not reflect any change in commitment by ANR or the Governor to Lake Champlain water quality efforts.

We expect to hire a leader of the Ecosystem Restoration program who will be able to continue and build upon the work that Julie was doing. This person will work directly with the Commissioner and will be keeping me informed so that leadership support will continue from the highest levels of ANR.

We decided that the model used in the Champlain Basin is one that we should be employing in other parts of the state. This expansion of our efforts will not undermine our commitment to continue to invest in Lake Champlain clean up efforts.

Feel free to call if you wish to discuss this further.

Deb

Deb Markowitz  
Secretary  
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources  
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**From:** Buzz Hoerr [hoerrfam@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 2:27 PM  
**To:** Markowitz, Deb  
**Subject:** FW: Ecosystem Restoration Program discussion with VTCAC and other groups

Deb,

Meant to include you yesterday on this, but you're not on the original send from David.

Buzz

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From: hoerrfam@msn.com

To: david.mears@state.vt.us; michaela.stickney@state.vt.us

CC: linda.riddell@state.vt.us; eric.smeltzer@state.vt.us; pete.laflamme@state.vt.us

Subject: RE: Ecosystem Restoration Program discussion with VTCAC and other groups

Date: Wed, 23 Mar 2011 19:40:14 -0400

David,

Thanks for your prompt reply.

I would characterize the main concerns I am hearing as wondering what will happen to the work that had been done under Julie Moore's direction, especially in the north lake and the Rock and Mississquoi Rivers, St. Albans Bay, and the South Lake/Poultney Mettowee area.

While it appears the presentation we saw is spreading the emphasis over the entire state, and none of us disagrees with Basin planning as a concept, the urgency for action you heard from a wide spectrum of citizens the night you attended the CAC meeting is real. After the presentation at our March CAC meeting by Neal, Eric and Ethan on the basin planning process, there is concern that while it might make more management sense to move the Champlain portfolio into the DEC area, moving it and staff out of the Secretary's office is a break with a longstanding commitment from the previous administration and Secretaries who had pledged an emphasis on the lake and it's urgent need for action to reduce nutrients and toxics in as expedient a timeframe as possible.

People are worried that the focus they fought so long and hard to obtain for the lake is now going to be subsumed into a statewide effort, and that while that balancing is probably good news for those other areas, it is seen as a possible diminishment of effort on Champlain.

We put forward our number one Action Plan priority of a budget for each sub watershed that drains into the lake to force decisions to be more local as a big step towards real reductions in excess nutrients in a timely fashion. This initiative should nicely fit with the work of the basin planners, but we have yet to see what their process will truly lead to. Without enforceable caps on nutrients coming into the lake, it will likely be decades if ever before we will see the reductions that need to happen so the lake can begin to heal itself from our decades of degradation. We hope to hear from your staff that we will see movement in that direction, as that is what the majority of citizens who speak to us want to see; actions creating quantified reductions in excess nutrients and toxics in a timeframe of a few years.

The new administration has every right to be looking at different ways of doing things going forward, and people respect that. They and I also know of Deb Markowitz's skills as a manager of a government agency, and agree that ANR is a challenging entity to get heading in a unified direction. So people want to see how this will all work out. But people involved know this problem and all the projects intimately, having been involved in so many aspects of identifying problem areas, putting together ideas on solutions, and participating in implementation. If there are signs that they are going to see a timeout here while the state does a large planning exercise at the expense of any efforts underway to act on reducing nutrients, they will likely not be patient about expressing their concerns and challenging it.

The CAC's role is and always has been to facilitate communication between the citizens and the

government agencies involved in the clean up of Lake Champlain. Thus our request for you to attend the meeting and give us the Agency's view on these concerns. Eric and Pete, as well as Neil, Ethan and Karen all have long and positive experiences with the citizens in this project, and we trust that they will be able to present the transition plan and steps to keep implementation, focus and emphasis on Lake Champlain clean up moving along, consistent with what we know as Clean and Clear, to the group at our upcoming meeting. We look forward to seeing you at future CAC meetings.

Thank you again.

Buzz Hoerr, Chair  
Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee

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From: David.Mears@state.vt.us  
To: Michaela.Stickney@state.vt.us; hoerrfam@msn.com  
CC: Linda.Riddell@state.vt.us; Eric.Smeltzer@state.vt.us; Pete.LaFlamme@state.vt.us  
Date: Wed, 23 Mar 2011 19:01:16 -0400  
Subject: RE: Ecosystem Restoration Program discussion with VTCAC and other groups

Dear Michaela: I cannot attend on April 11 as I will just be returning from a trip that evening.

Dear Buzz: Feel free to let me know what the concerns are and I can work with Pete or Eric so that they are prepared to respond. The short answer to the question in Michaela's message below is that DEC will continue to have at least the same level of commitment to Lake Champlain as we have had in the recent past. In addition, we will, over time, expand what has been a successful model for coordination of our funding and communications work to protect water quality in other parts of the state.

Placing the program within the water quality division is intended to increase the opportunities for collaboration with the tactical basin planning work we are undertaking. As a reflection of my commitment to the success of this program, the number of staff in the program will increase by two positions and, as Pete and Eric can attest, I have made water quality issues in the lake one my highest priorities in terms of my time. Sincerely, David

David K. Mears, Commissioner  
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

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**From:** Stickney, Michaela  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 5:32 PM  
**To:** Mears, David; LaFlamme, Pete; Riddell, Linda; Smeltzer, Eric  
**Cc:** 'Buzz Hoerr'  
**Subject:** Ecosystem Restoration Program discussion with VTCAC and other groups  
**Importance:** High

Hello David, Pete and Eric,

Buzz Hoerr asked me to invite you to the next VTCAC meeting on Monday April 11 at the ECHO Center in Burlington from 5-7pm. He has been hearing from some VTCAC partners that there is concern about the reconfiguration of Clean and Clear into the Ecosystem Restoration Program. The VTCAC is interested in hearing about how the focus level will be maintained in the Lake Champlain Basin and other information that is available. It might also be helpful to invite some of the watershed planners to talk about how the tactical basin planning process and other state initiatives underway will mesh with ERP work.

I understand that next week, Friends of Northern Lake Champlain is hosting a meeting about how northern lake groups can continue to be engaged with the new ERP. I have been trying to reach Paul Madden to gather more information about the agenda for the meeting and have been unsuccessful so far.

This meeting will be the last regular VTCAC meeting until next September, so hopefully your schedules are free.

Sincerely,

Michaela

Michaela Stickney  
Lake Champlain Basin Program Coordinator

Contact information:

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Kāua e rangiruatia te hā o te hoe; e kore tō tātou waka e ū ki uta. Do not lift the paddle out of unison or our canoe will never reach the shore. --a Māori whakatauki, or proverb