

Meeting location: ECHO Leahy Center 12/10/13 2-4:00 p.m.

Comments:

1. Wonderful, candid forum...particularly liked the strong leadership spoken by the ANR commissioner (Mr. Mears?) and my hope is that his intentions (although they may not be "popular" with every segment, will focus forward on what has to be accomplished.
2. found that there was a true desire for comments/suggestions/solutions
3. Good to think that after 40 years there seems to be serious contemplation of TMDL and other lake pollutant sources with a desire to go after the largest quadrants of pollution at their source.
4. I was glad to know that EPA is seriously effecting this move toward something that can actually be ACCOMPLISHED with planning and ACTION.

Suggestion:

(first, an example of an ACTION that actually worked/ followed by a suggestion)

A. Example of something that worked to educate the public: It takes TIME, it can be done...not by words but by action!

Years ago, Lady Bird Johnson (LBJ) had an initiative to beautify, and "flowerize" public highways and spaces. The public began to see her ideas in action when stretches of wild flowers etc. appeared along highways. Ultimately, individual communities (and perhaps reluctant gardeners) began to follow suit, and since then people have had ever increasing gardening interests etc. I don't know if a study was done to correlate LBJ's initiatives with public action, but ... the highways gardens were NOTICED and emulated. ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER (or as loud as) THAN WORDS.

B. Suggestion: In order to Educate the public about what needs to be done, EXAMPLES of good stewardship practices for the lake must be more and more evident. Those living/working around the lake/brooks/streams/rivers need to hear about ...and more importantly need to SEE specific examples of what types of things they can do in order to rectify TMDL.

1. The public will have to have support to get practices up to EPA/VT "code" (when you have code written!). By having specific written/available GUIDELINES (which could be distributed through the Basin Program, at ECHO, through "efficiency VT", Gov't offices and other such known public outlets for the public good). Only then will people would know specifically WHAT they can do on their properties to mitigate TMDL at their particular source.

2. Farmers will have to have support to get their practices and farms up to EPA/VT "code"(when it is written) as to how TMDL might be mitigated. They will have to be held accountable. There are no industries or businesses TODAY who can wantonly pollute the air or the water or the land upon which they operate!

a. The public needs to hear about these working farm examples of where mitigation procedures are being followed. The farms that lead in these initiatives need to be held up as examples, so that the public and SEE that progress is being made. Get Cabot and Booth Brothers involved...it's good publicity!

3. Communities/public works (VTRANS) etc. that have working examples of stretches of highways and parking lots etc.that follow EPA/VT "code" need to be held up as working examples so the public will SEE what is going right for our waterways.

4. the public must SEE and be WITNESS to what it being done. Code and guidelines must be written, clear and specific...with the expectation that over 10 years this is where we are going, and our waterways will be on the way to sustainable health.

5. Public areas... such as the area around ECHO!!!...must be SHOWPLACES of how to best set up buildings/ walkways/parking areas/water gardens/rooftops etc. that demonstrate care of

waterways. (While at the meeting yesterday, one only had to look out to see concrete and pavement EVERYWHERE at ECHO and along our Burlington Waterfront. Public places have to bespeak what it is that is appropriate so that there are STARK examples and once seen, people will follow suit! People around the lake WILL comply IF they are given specific guidelines about how to do this!

GIVE people a chance. Give us specific guidelines! Begin with the people on the lake...People on the lake are the public... they are the businesses...they are State and Fed. workers they are working people and they care! Offer tax incentives? offer prizes for effective efforts? Ask landscapers and developers and Garden centers offer discounts... if you are only punitive, without helpful suggestions as to what to do, you will not get public behaviors changed! Behavior must be changed through ACTION not just WORDS.

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