

Thank you for holding the public forum at the ECHO Center. If the state is serious about reducing the phosphorus (and nitrogen) in the lake, there needs to be the political will to actually make tough legislation AND ENFORCE it.

Suggestions:

1. Ban the sale and use of lawn fertilizers throughout the watershed, with the possible exception of golf courses.
2. Create buffer zones between waterways and farmers' crop lands. Plant nitrogen-absorbing shrubs within 50 feet or so of waterway to reduce run-off, create channels and ditches to slow water flow during storms. PAY FARMERS for the loss of this crop land (we grant money for wind farms and everything else). We have to put our money where our priorities are.
3. Create dry pond overflow systems to slow the rush of water during storms. Perhaps the state could employ/ hire water engineers to assess where we need to have dams to control the overflow of what appears to be an increase in precipitation (at least in the spring). Jericho could have its own electricity generating plant!
4. Our drinking water needs to be tested for BMAA levels and other neurotoxins. Missisquoi and St. Albans Bays should not be used as a source of drinking water. The state Dept. of Health should be involved. This is a public health issue, not just an environmental and economic one.
5. The public should be warned not to eat fish caught in bays that have blue green algae. The BMAA has been shown to undergo biomagnification, as shown by Dr. Stommel (Dartmouth) findings of the Mascoma Lake perch having high BMAA levels.

Thank you for taking these and other suggestions from the public seriously. We have the opportunity to reverse this now, before its too late, if we can find the political will to do what needs to be done.

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