



**Carmi Communicator #1**  
**December 2019**



Dear Friends of Lake Carmi,

Greetings from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Watershed Management Division. My name is Oliver Pierson and I am the new Lakes and Ponds Program Manager at the Department. With the busy summer field season behind us and winter setting in, we wanted to begin an effort to share the initial results of implementing different elements of the Lake Carmi Crisis Response Plan with concerned lake stakeholders. Our goal is to keep you all better informed about our and other partners' efforts to improve water quality in Lake Carmi and its watershed. To that end, we'll be sending out short regular updates on the implementation of the Crisis Response Plan and other issues of interest. For those that want to dive a little deeper, we'll provide links to our website that go into a bit more detail on some of these matters. We hope that you find these periodic updates helpful, and as always, we welcome your feedback and content suggestions. Don't hesitate to drop me a line!

- **Update on the Performance of the Lake Aeration System in 2019:** We've just completed a preliminary summary of the 2019 aeration system performance, which can be found [here](#) in the "Updates" section. In a nutshell, the Lake Carmi aeration system is working as intended and was responsible for limiting phosphorus loading from the lake's bottom sediments this summer. We hope that the aeration system can be optimized in 2020 to reduce sediment phosphorus release even further, and contribute to improved water quality in the lake along with other projects described in the [Crisis Response Plan](#).
- **December 5<sup>th</sup> Implementation Team Meeting:** There will be a Lake Carmi Crisis Response Plan Implementation Team meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 PM in the FELCO Room at the Franklin Homestead. We hope to see many of you there or hear from you via teleconference. The draft meeting agenda and call-in info are listed below this message. The goal of the meeting is to obtain an update on critical path project implementation and identify additional priority projects to promote restoration work in the watershed.
- **Lake Champlain Basin Program Request for Proposals:** The Lake Champlain Basin Program recently issued a [request for proposals](#) to conduct an inventory of private and park roads not subject to Municipal General Road Permits in the Lake Carmi watershed and to prioritize road segments for improvement based on phosphorus runoff reduction potential. Proposals are due on Jan. 3, 2020.
- **Upcoming groundwater (shallow, deep) studies:** DEC is getting going on a project to evaluate phosphorus loading via groundwater, including shoreland septic contribution, to Lake Carmi, as mentioned in the Lake Carmi Crisis Response Plan, and we'll provide a detailed update on this effort in the next Carmi Communicator.

As always, we'd love to hear from you, either in person at Implementation Team Meetings in Franklin, or via email; my contact information is below. I look forward to working with you on our shared goal of improving water quality in Lake Carmi and reducing nutrient runoff from the watershed.

Regards,  
Oliver

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