



**CARMI Communicator #2**  
**January 2020**



Dear Friends of Lake Carmi,

Welcome to the second edition of the Carmi Communicator, the Vermont DEC's efforts to keep Lake Carmi stakeholders better informed about ongoing efforts to improve water quality in the lake and its watershed. We hope folks are having a great winter and look forward to seeing you soon. We've been busy working on different aspects of the Lake Carmi Crisis Response Plan, and you'll find updates below.

- **Upcoming groundwater study:** DEC, in collaboration with regional university partners, is launching a comprehensive groundwater study examining groundwater in the bedrock and surficial aquifers, including sampling near-surface groundwater in the shoreland soil, to evaluate nutrient loading via groundwater to Lake Carmi. More information can be found about these studies [here](#), but I want to note that DEC needs access to soil on seven lots around the lake to install shallow monitoring wells. If you would like to be part of this important study, please contact DEC Geologist, Grahame Bradley, at [grahame.bradley@vermont.gov](mailto:grahame.bradley@vermont.gov) or 802-622-4129.
- **Nutrient Management Plan Review:** UVM Extension is reviewing each of the nutrient management plans on the 10 active farms in the Carmi watershed, with all soil tests recently updated. Cover crops were installed on 75% of the cornland with a goal of 100% next year, but a wet spring and fall created challenges in successful cover crop implementation. During the winter, UVM is coordinating with Stone Environmental to input farm data into a new model, Farm Prep, which is in a trial phase to determine its applicability in helping farmers further reduce potential water quality impacts.
- **Route 236 Culvert Replacement Loan:** The Franklin Stormwater Master Plan and the Lake Carmi Crisis Response Plan identified several culverts that due to poor placement, adjacent sinkholes, and inadequate size are contributing to erosion and sediment transport / nutrient enrichment to the lake. Two of these culverts on Route 236 / State Park Road have been identified as not meeting the standards of the VTrans Hydraulic Manual and are therefore priorities for replacement. DEC believes that the replacement of these culverts will reduce sediment transport and nutrient loading to the lake and thereby contribute to improving water quality. DEC has proposed using the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to cover the costs of this culvert replacement project. This funding will take the form of a loan of up to \$450,000 to the Town of Franklin, which will immediately be completely forgiven, resulting in no financial liability for the Town. However, because the funds are categorized as a loan, a public vote to decide whether to proceed with this project is required on Town Meeting Day in Franklin on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a public meeting about this project on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Franklin Central School where officials from the state will be present to answer questions. If you are registered to vote in Franklin but are away from the area on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, you can request an absentee ballot from Town Clerk Lisa Larivee at [townoff@franklinvt.net](mailto:townoff@franklinvt.net). The ballot form, which will be mailed to you, must arrive in Franklin by close of business on March 2<sup>nd</sup> to be counted.
- **February 19<sup>th</sup> Implementation Team Meeting:** There will be a Lake Carmi Implementation Team meeting on Wednesday February 19<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 goal of the meeting is to obtain an update on critical path project implementation and identify additional priority projects to promote water quality improvement work in the watershed. Possible agenda items include:
  - Presentation of 2019 Lake Carmi and Tributary monitoring data analysis results
  - Progress Reports on Critical Path Projects, linked with Lake Carmi Crisis Response Plan
  - Identification of new projects for 2020 and possible updating of Lake Carmi Crisis Response Plan

- Initial Discussion of 2020 aeration program

As always, we'd love to hear from you, either in person at Implementation Team Meetings in Franklin, or via email. 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,

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