

FRANKLIN WATERSHED COMMITTEE

2012 LaRosa Partnership Final Report for Lake Carmi

Program Overview

The state of Vermont has designated Lake Carmi as an impaired body of water because of nuisance algae blooms that are fueled by excessive amounts of phosphorous in the lake. The watershed to the lake is mainly agricultural. More than 80% of the phosphorous load to the lake from nonpoint sources emanates from agricultural lands.

In 2008 the Franklin Watershed Committee (FWC) expanded the Lake Carmi water sampling program and joined the LaRosa Partnership. The objective of the augmented program was to sample major tributaries to the lake for phosphorous. Initially in 2008 ten sampling sites were tested. In 2012 a total of nineteen sites were tested. Sampling was conducted at the mouths of all the lake tributaries. In some cases multiple points along a tributary were sampled. Dicky's Brook was sampled at three points while the Marsh Brook, the largest tributary to the lake, was sampled at four sites. In addition Little Pond Culvert, a very significant contributor to the Marsh Brook, was sampled at multiple points as well. Lastly, a drain tile was also monitored to determine its impact on the Marsh Brook.

All of the samples taken in 2012 were tested for phosphorous. Turbidity was also measured at the mouth of each tributary. Sampling was generally conducted every other Wednesday from May 30th thru October 10th, 2012. Unscheduled sampling during rain events was also conducted.

Efforts to collect samples at the designated sites were generally successful. In instances where samples were not taken, either the tributary was dry or the land owner did not give permission to conduct the sampling.

2012 LaRosa Partnership Sampling Sites

- LC 1. Sandy Bay @ Black Woods Rd. (Near Mouth)
- LC3. Dicky's Brook @ Middle Rd.
- LC4. Dicky's Brook @ Rainville Field
- LC5. Dicky's Brook @ Lake Rd. (Near Mouth)
- LC6. Dewing Brook @ Dewing Rd.
- LC7. Marsh Brook @ Towle Neighborhood Rd. North
- LC8. Marsh Brook @ Towle Neighborhood Rd. South
- LC9. Marsh Brook @ State Park Rd.
- LC10. Marsh Brook @ Lake Carmi State Park (Near Mouth)
- LC11. Alder Run @ Middle Rd.
- LC12. Kane's Brook (Near Mouth)
- LC13. Hammond's Brook South (Near Mouth)
- LC14. Little Pond Rd. Culvert
- LC15. Prouty Brook (Near Mouth)
- LC16. Westcott Brook (Near Mouth)

LC17. Hammonds Brook North (Near Mouth)
LC18. Little Pond Rd. Culvert North
LC19. Little Pond Rd. Culvert West
LC20. Wagner Drain Tile

Please Note: LC2, Alder Run @ Lake Rd., was removed from the list of sampling sites when landowner permission was withdrawn.

Test Descriptions

Phosphorous & Turbidity

Excessive amounts of phosphorous have been determined to be the major cause of algae blooms on Lake Carmi. The algae blooms render the lake not suitable for recreational activities. The majority of the phosphorous entering Lake Carmi comes from agricultural activity and lakeside residences. Lake Carmi is a eutropic lake. In 2008 the EPA approved a TMDL for Lake Carmi. The primary objective of the TMDL is to significantly reduce the phosphorous levels in the lake.

LaRosa Partnership Sampling Results

Attachment 1 is a spreadsheet listing all results for phosphorous.

Attachment 2 is a spreadsheet listing all results for turbidity.

Quality Assurance Results

For quality assurance a field duplicate and a field blank were collected during each sampling event. A total of eleven field duplicates and eleven field blanks were taken for phosphorous. A total of four field duplicates and four field blanks were taken for turbidity.

Field Blanks. All field blanks collected for phosphorous had a ug P/L of <5. All field blanks collected for turbidity had a value of <0.2.

Field Duplicates. Attachment 3 is a table listing the mean difference for Field Duplicates.

Conclusions

The LaRosa partnership is a vital tool in determining the source of phosphorous loads to Lake Carmi. The Franklin Watershed Committee intends to continue participating in the partnership well into the future. The FWC would like to continue to sample the same sites in 2013 to ensure all major loads of phosphorous to the lake are identified. Such information is essential to developing projects and other action items to reduce the phosphorous loads to the lake and to achieve the goals outlined in the TMDL.

It must also be noted that the sampling results are an essential means to communicate with the Lake Carmi community about the negative impact of high phosphorous loads to the lake. A community meeting conducted in the Spring focuses exclusively on the sampling results from the prior year.

