

<@)))))>< Northern Lake Champlain Basin Planning Process <@)))))><

Projects Update – December 19, 2003

Pesticide and fertilizer reduction in residential lawn care

- June 13, 2003 - Karen Bates, DEC, met with the Voice of Potash Brook to discuss partnership opportunities. Potential meeting in the fall was discussed.
- September 24, 2003 Karen will meet with Gardner's Supply to discuss role of Vermont Green Lawn Coalition.
- December 4, 2003 – Karen facilitated a meeting for interested groups to discuss collaboration and possible project. Strategies could be developed for concern regarding general water quality.
- December 19, 2003, Karen and others developed a grant proposal to the Lake Champlain Basin Program to do a neighborhood education and outreach project on lawn and garden related pollution in the Stevens Brook watershed in St. Albans.

Aquatic Nuisance Species control projects (St. Albans, Pelots Bay)

- June 20, 2003 - Members of groups in the basin attended the Milfoil Seminar presented by the Vt. Federation of Lakes and Ponds and DEC.
- July 30, 2003 – St. Albans Area Watershed Assoc. hosted meeting to discuss possible solutions to problems. DEC and Lake Champlain Basin Program staff attended.
- September 15, 2003, DEC and St. Albans Area Watershed Assoc. representative toured St. Albans Bay by boat
- October 22, 2003, Pelots Bay, Assoc. helps set up meeting with Karen to discuss overall goals and strategies based on their experiences.
- November 24, 2003, Karen finished first draft of strategies for discussion group to review

Geomorphic assessment of the LaPlatte River

- Meeting with Pam Brangan, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Karen and LaPlatte River Partnership (LRP).
- May 19, 20 - Bill Hoadley, LRP and Karen attend DEC workshop on fluvial geomorphology
- July 12, 2003 – LRP meeting at Shelburne Town Offices to discuss the fluvial geomorphic assessment on the LaPlatte River with interested community members.
- July 23, 2003, Andrea Morgante and Bill Hoadly, LRP and Karen met with Staci Pomeroy, DEC, to review the reach breaks identified by the three.
- Town of Shelburne will fund part of the geomorphic assessment of the LaPlatte through their SEP to address a violation of ANR regulations.
- LaPlatte Partnership hired Lisa Godfrey to do Phase I assessment.
- September 12, 2003, Karen provided town planners within the watershed with overview of goals of assessment and asked about their goals
- October 24, 2003, Karen assisted the LaPlatte River Partnership in the completion of a grant application to the DEC Vt. Watershed Grant Project for Phase II geomorphic assessment in the town of Hinesburg.
- October 27, 2003, Karen developed draft strategies for the LaPlatte River based on the LaPlatte River Partnership goals and objectives and recent work.

Carry Bay hydrodynamic and water quality modeling

- July 2, 2003 - Northern Lake Champlain Advisory Committee hosted presentation by Binkerd Environmental Inc to describe modeling project. The consultant and the watershed group will collect data this summer.
- December 18, 2003 – consultant presented results

Reducing phosphorus concentrations/algal blooms in the water of St. Albans Bay

- Eric Smeltzer, DEC summarized research on phosphorus loading in St. Albans Bay in paper
- July 16, 2003 - Meeting in St. Albans Bay to hear Eric's presentation on paper and proposed solutions presented in the Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL
- October 23rd, 2003 - Agricultural meeting in Swanton organized by Natural Resources Conservation District and Service, Vt. Agency of Agric., Food and Markets with assistance and participation by St. Albans Area Watershed Assoc and Karen Bates. NRCD will have Karen Bates discuss strategies for basin plan at the next quarterly meeting for the agricultural community.
- October 14, 2003 Meeting with GUND Institute at UVM, Brian Searles, St. Albans City manager, Bonnie Waninger, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, and Karen Bates to discuss completion of hydrological study with community involvement
- October 24, 2003, Karen Bates assisted the St. Albans Area Watershed Assoc. in completing a grant application to the DEC Vt. Watershed Grant Project for the development of a volunteer water quality monitoring group.
- December 2003, Karen will meet with St. Albans Area Watershed Assoc. to develop a list of stream related projects that could become part of the efforts to reduce algal blooms.

Water Supply

- August 20, 2003, Discussion with Champlain Water District, DEC Water Supply Division about how basin plan could address water supply and how strategies could be developed. CWD concern is the disconnect between source water protection plans and watershed plans

Addressing Pathogens

- September 26, 2003, The Green Mt. Institute for Environmental Democracy met with the town of Colchester staff and Karen Bates to discuss its grant to hold public discussions in the town about water quality. Karen suggested that *E. coli* would be an important topic. The discussion could result in strategies that she could present in drafts of the basin plan. The town would like to wait at least until the spring of 2004.