

I am writing to request the position of Lake Wise Program Manager at DEC's Lakes and Ponds Division not be eliminated in the proposed state Budget. The Lake Wise Program has been an important tool for lakes to educate shoreland property owners about the importance of maintaining a buffer along the shoreline as well as septic system maintenance and managing runoff. Vermont's lake shorelines have been overly developed for years. While the Shoreland Protection Act has hopefully prevented further poor development, the Lake Wise Program works with landowners on already developed parcels to manage their property for the benefit of the lake's water quality. I urge you not to eliminate this position.

Rhonda Shippee, President
Seymour Lake Association