

Dr. Kent E. Henderson  
Friends of Northern Lake Champlain

Monday, February 09, 2015

2015 Budget request.

*in the northern arm of LC*

Reducing nutrient run off which leads to blue green algae blooms is the ultimate goal of the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain. During the summer of 2014, we witnessed all-time deteriorating conditions in Missisquoi Bay and St. Albans Bay. And EPA identified the Missisquoi river basin and St. Albans Bay as the worst contributors of Phosphorus on the entire Vermont shoreline.

To specially address the EPA's defined TMDL reduction goals for the impaired northern arm of Lake Champlain and support on-the-ground projects and administration, grant-writing, community and organizational education and outreach efforts of the five watershed groups in this critical area;

*a total*  
We are calling for \$250,000 from the capital budget to fund equally the five watershed groups in the northern arm. *at \$50,000/organization*

*(on an annual basis)*

*or the general budget*

FNLC – Friends of Northern Lake Champlain

MRBA – Missisquoi River Basin Association

FWA – Farmer's Watershed Alliance

FWC – Franklin Watershed Committee

SAAWA – St Albans Area Watershed Association

FNLC has identified over 600 storm water improvement projects in 11 Franklin Co. towns by creating storm water management plans and has only been funded for 6 projects in three years. Our second ask is for the <sup>general</sup> capital budget allowance to ANR be restored to the 2011 level of \$650,000 so DEC will resume releasing Sec 319 monies to support our grant-supported storm water project work.

Cleaning up the waters of Lake Champlain, Lake Carmi, and the entire state is a bipartisan effort. The Franklin Co. legislative delegation has named water quality improvement as its number 1 priority for this session and created a water quality caucus which is meeting on a weekly basis. 2015 is the year when the state needs to come through with the finances to support this critical work. *We need to*

*appropriate Vermont money, while working our way through the Federal appropriation system.*

Denise (for FNLC + FWA)

Tom or Leahy

Ask for LCBP to put \$1M in our hands  
for covercrop because NRCS funds  
have not been released

Call Meety w Tom - include FWA - FNLC - MRBA  
UNM-EXT

Rep Mitzi Johnson