

# 2018 Lake Champlain Action Plan

## Lake Champlain is the catalyst for clean water actions needed in every corner of the state.

With a diverse coalition of public, municipal, agricultural, environmental, and private sector representatives calling for unified action, we have a unique window of opportunity to protect our communities (including our New York and Quebec neighbors) and the Vermont economy from the long-term costs of failing to invest in Vermont's most vital natural asset—clean water. We must not delay. We must take decisive action now, working together to achieve Vermont's clean water future.

### Clean Water Authority and Funding

Vermont must establish a publicly accountable and politically independent Clean Water Authority to administer the Clean Water Fund and to create an equitable, long-term, and sustainable revenue source of at least \$26 million annually to support critical clean water investments.

Clean water funding must:

- Build upon a foundation of existing capital investments that are essential for clean water infrastructure;
- Include a mandatory per parcel fee, which is a tiered fee based on impervious surface area;
- Address priorities identified in Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Tactical Basin Plans through diverse investments to maximize clean water outcomes; and
- Support clean water projects in all regions of the state.



Lake Champlain Basin Program



Lake Champlain Basin Program





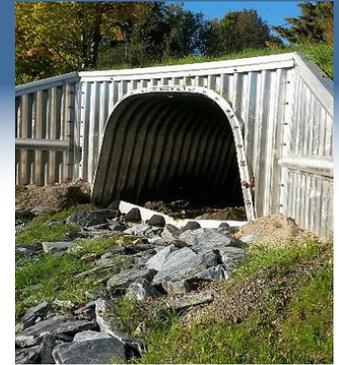
Gully resulting from soil erosion



Water chestnut in Lake Champlain



Various watercraft utilize Burlington Bay



Properly sized culvert improves water quality and flood resilience

### Act 64

The state must provide adequate technical staff and effective communication channels to fully implement Act 64 and comply with clean water program requirements. Agricultural compliance enforcement should be delegated to the Agency of Natural Resources rather than the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets.

### Leading by Example

State-owned buildings and grounds, and state-funded projects must demonstrate wastewater and stormwater best management practices, and promote the use of low impact development and green infrastructure to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff and showcase Vermont's commitment to clean water.

### Aquatic Invasive Species

The state must increase program support for aquatic invasive species prevention and control, building upon decades of effective invasive species management.

### Public Access and Recreation

The state must increase and improve public access, including for non-motorized recreation on Lake Champlain, particularly in southern Vermont, and rivers and streams throughout the Lake Champlain Basin.

### Emerging Contaminants

While nutrient pollution has been a primary focus for many years, the state must address emerging contaminants in our ground and surface waters and protect these public trust assets.

### Investing in Flood Resilience

Climate change is indisputable and extreme weather events are the new normal. The state must support policies and practices that improve flood resilience to minimize natural resource and property damage, including protecting and restoring floodplains, river corridors, and wetlands, and removing derelict dams.

### VTCAC Members

- Lori Fisher, Chair, Williston, Nonprofit Executive Director
- Denise Smith, Vice Chair, St. Albans, RiseVT Program Manager
- Rep. Steve Beyor, Highgate Springs
- Sen. Carolyn Branagan, Franklin District
- Eric Clifford, Starksboro, Dairy Farmer
- James Ehlers, Colchester, Public Health and Environmental Advocate
- Wayne Elliott, Essex, Engineer
- Robert Fischer, Barre Town, South Burlington Water Quality Superintendent
- Sen. Ginny Lyons, Chittenden District
- Alex McDonald, Lincoln, Builder
- David Mears, Montpelier, Professor/Attorney
- Mark Naud, South Hero, Attorney
- Rep. Carol Ode, Burlington
- Jeff Wennberg, Rutland City, Rutland Department of Public Works Commissioner