

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Commissioner's Office

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June 25, 2020

Dear Senator/Representative,

During this unprecedented and challenging time for our state, it is encouraging to have positive news to share with Vermonters. I am writing to share the newly released ***2019 Lake Carmi Clean Water Progress Report*** (enclosed), which illustrates how significant state investments in clean water projects in Lake Carmi and its watershed are expected to result in improved water quality in Lake Carmi. Your constituents care about clean water – both in Lake Carmi and in waterbodies statewide – because it supports outdoor recreation, bolsters tourism, maintains property values, and provides access to safe drinking water.

Lake Carmi was designated as a Lake in Crisis in 2018 due to persistent cyanobacteria blooms resulting from high in-lake phosphorus pollution levels. In response, the state issued the *2018 Lake Carmi Crisis Response Plan* outlining several high priority actions to improve water quality in Lake Carmi. The *2019 Lake Carmi Clean Water Progress Report* summarizes work completed to date to meet Lake in Crisis Response Plan objectives that should translate into water quality improvements in Lake Carmi.

Although this report is not required by statute, the state committed to annual reporting of Lake Carmi's clean water investments and results in the *2018 Lake Carmi Crisis Response Plan*. Attached, you will find a copy of the report summarizing projects funded and completed in Lake Carmi and its watershed from state fiscal year (SFY) 2016 to 2019. The Department of Environmental Conservation will also be hosting an event to present this report to the Lake Carmi community on Thursday, July 9, 2020. Additional presentation event details and the report are available at: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/restoring/carmi>. In future years, we will communicate clean water investments and results through shorter *Lake Carmi Clean Water Progress Update Reports*.

We are committed to providing transparency and accountability for our state's clean water progress. We hope you and your constituents find these resources helpful to show interim progress, as meeting our clean water goals will require continued investments, collaboration, and time. For more information, please contact Oliver Pierson of my Staff at oliver.pierson@vermont.gov or 802-490-6198. Thank you for your continued support for clean water.

Sincerely,



Peter Walke
Commissioner
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Enclosed: *2019 Lake Carmi Clean Water Progress Report*