

Vermont Lakes in a Changing Climate: From Issues to Actions

June 3, 2022 – Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Sponsored by the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC)

Responding to the increase in the discharge of pollutants into US surface waters, the Clean Water Act was passed fifty years ago. The Act established the basic structure for regulating discharges into surface waters and for regulating surface water standards. Driving improvements in wastewater and stormwater management, the act improved surface water quality nationwide. Today's challenges to water quality in Vermont's lakes are complex, and many are amplified by the expected impacts from the changing climate. This seminar highlights the Clean Water Act, explores the present climate-related challenges to water quality, and describes actions that can mitigate the associated risks to our lakes.

Start	Duration (presentation + Q&A)	Topic	Speaker(s)	Content
9:00	15	Welcome: Pat Suozzi, FOVLAP President, and John Beling, Acting DEC Commissioner		
9:15	20+10	Vermont’s Climate Action Plan	Jane Lazorchak – Global Warming Solutions Act Project Director	The role of Vermont’s natural landscapes in resilience, adaptation, and carbon sequestration.
9:45	20+10	Increased risk of harmful algae blooms from climate change	Peter Isles – VTDEC Biologist	How does the changing climate impact the risk of harmful algae blooms in Vermont lakes?
10:15 Coffee Break (15)				
10:30	20+10	50 years of the Clean Water Act and Vermont Lakes	Steve Paulsen, US Environmental Protection Agency	Monitoring and Assessment of Lakes – Vermont’s Impact on the National Scene
11:00	20+10	Climate impact on loons and request for help in lead reduction	Eric Hanson – Loon Biologist – Vermont ECO Studies, VTFW	Loons have been predicted to possibly disappear from Vermont because of climate change – what can be done? Habitat can be improved using a new grant to implement a lead fishing gear reduction program.
11:30	20+10	Vermont lay monitor recognition and Bob Arnold Award	Oliver Pierson - VTDEC Lakes and Ponds Manager	The health of our lakes is monitored by the Lay Monitoring Program. This presentation recognizes lay monitor volunteers and advertises for nominations for a distinguished service award.
12:00 Lunch Break (45)				
12:45	20+10	Current research on climate related risks to Vermont lakes	Mindy Morales, Assistant Professor, UVM Rubenstein School	What are the roles of human disturbance and climate change processes in the formation and maintenance of harmful cyanobacteria blooms?
1:15	20+10	Trends of lake ice cover dates in Vermont	Mark Mitchell – VTDEC Lay Monitoring Program and Lake Champlain Sea Grant Researcher	How can climate change impact lake ice cover and volunteer monitoring in Vermont?
1:45 Coffee Break (15)				
2:00	20+10	Future challenges in lake management and available solutions	Ken Wagner, Water Resource Manager	What problems might lake associations face in a changing climate, and are there available solutions?
2:30	30	General Sharing of Climate Change Observations with Moderators – Oliver Pierson, Laura Dlugolecki, Mark Mitchell		
3:00 Closing Remarks and Adjourn				

