

Update on Statewide Water Quality Initiatives



The Lake Champlain Basin



November 2002

EPA approves the Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL

- Jointly developed and submitted by Vermont and New York.
- Established total loading capacities for each lake segment watershed consistent with attaining the in-lake phosphorus standards.
- Established individual wasteload allocations for each wastewater treatment facility in Vermont and New York.
- Established nonpoint source load allocations by sub-watershed for forest, agricultural, and developed land sources.
- Included an implementation plan.

Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL



September 25, 2002

Prepared by

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation
103 South Main St.
Waterbury, VT 05671

and

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-3508

August 2003

Clean and Clear Program initiated to implement the Lake Champlain TMDL

(Now called the Vermont DEC Ecosystem Restoration Program)

- \$140 million in state and federal funds committed since 2004.
- 51 out of 55 action items are either underway or completed, some with changes in scope.
- Addresses a wide variety of primarily nonpoint sources of phosphorus loading.
- Actions and progress documented in annual reports.

Vermont Ecosystem Restoration Program¹

2011 Annual Report



Prepared by:
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

Submitted to the Vermont General Assembly
in accordance with 10 V.S.A. §1386(d)

February 1, 2011

¹ (formerly the Vermont Center for Clean and Clear)

January 2010

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources submits revised TMDL Implementation Plan to the Vermont Legislature

- Based on extensive public consultation and stakeholder workshops.
- Identified and ranked threats to lake water quality.
- Narrowed more than 1,000 potential actions down to a list of 200 suggested strategies, grouped by type of threat.
- Total long-term cost estimated to be \$500-800 million.

January 2011
EPA revokes approval of the 2002 Lake Champlain TMDL
(Vermont portion only)

Revised Implementation Plan
Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL



Prepared by:
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Submitted to:
the Vermont General Assembly
in accordance with Act 130 (2008), Section 2

January 15, 2010

Major elements of a TMDL

- Water quality standards
 - Total loading capacity
 - Wasteload allocation (point sources)
 - Load allocation (nonpoint sources)
 - Margin of safety
 - Reasonable assurances
 - Monitoring plan
 - Implementation plan (optional)
- Reasons for EPA disapproval

Current Process

- EPA is responsible for preparing the new TMDL – will consult closely with VT DEC
- Two technical tracks underway
 - Lake modeling → establish new total loading capacities
 - Watershed analysis → quantify potential nonpoint source load reductions for reasonable assurances
- Public consultation (EPA/DEC)
 - Nine public meetings during Fall 2011\
 - More coming in 2013
- New draft TMDL in 2013 with final plan in 2014
- Implementation work is continuing!

Act 138

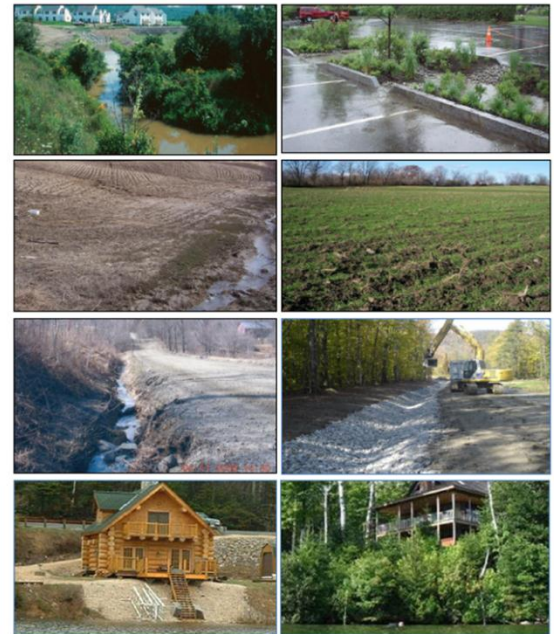
Water Quality Remediation, Implementation and Funding Report

- Act 138 enacted in VT legislature in 2012
- Provisions and requirements related to protecting floodplains, increasing flood protection planning, and flood-related oversight.
- Required water quality report

Water Quality Remediation, Implementation and Funding Report

Part I: Clean Water Needs, Financial Tools, and Administration
Part II: Lake Shoreland Protection and Restoration Management Options

January 14, 2013



Prepared for the Vermont General Assembly in
Accordance with Act 138 (2012), Section 119

Act 138

Water Quality Remediation, Implementation and Funding Report

- Recommendations of how to improve water quality
- How to pay for it
- Multi-sector
 - agriculture*
 - urban runoff*
 - municipalities*
 - roads*
 - wastewater treatment facilities*
 - shoreland protection*

Water Quality Remediation, Implementation and Funding Report

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Water Quality Remediation, Implementation and Funding Report

- Report given to legislature on January 15, 2013
- Ongoing testimony
- Included ideas from agricultural focus groups
- Accountability framework structure
- *The Future???*

