

Lake Champlain Phosphorus Initiative

Third Meeting of the Agricultural Working Group 3/6/13

This summary reflects a range of views expressed on the issues as discussed during meetings of the Agricultural Working Group (AWG), comprised of members of the Vermont Agricultural Community of producers, technical advisors, state and federal agency personnel and personnel from businesses in the agricultural sector. They do not reflect the formal or public position of any one group of people, organization or coalition. All errors and omissions are the sole responsibility of EMC/CBI.

Attendees: 20

These notes and the presentations that were given will be posted on the Environmental Mediation Center's website: <http://www.emcenter.org/lake-champlain-phosphorous-pollution-initiative/>

I. *Review of 2/14/13 Meeting Outcomes*

- Review and confirmation of information contained in 2/14/13 minutes;
- Review Dot Polling Results (contained in the 2/14/13 minutes)
- Discussion of how to make the most out of meetings: format – large vs. small group breakout sessions, encouragement of participation
- Digression from Agenda announced

II. *Presentation from Laura DiPietro on House Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources Committee Proposals*

- House committee will be proposing two programs that dovetail with the AWG's work: One on Livestock Exclusion and one on Small Farm Certification.
- The program details have not yet been released although the Agency of Agriculture was able to outline the factors it believed would be included in the Committee's proposals.
- The Committee's timeline is ahead of and not in step with the timeline that the AWG is working under for its work but the subject matter of part of the AWG work and the Committee proposals is very similar.
- The AWG was asked whether they would be willing to discuss these proposals and make general recommendations to the Committee. The AWG understands that their recommendations are advisory in scope and may or may not be addressed by the Committee.
- The AWG felt that the opportunity to comment ahead of the release of the Committee's proposals would be helpful as the formation of the AWG was predicated upon the idea that the group had expertise and information as a

group of farmers and agricultural consultants and may be able to provide insight to the work being done by the Committee.

- The AWG agreed to draft proposed recommendations to be provided to the Committee.
- The group broke into two smaller groups, one to discuss the Livestock exclusion issue and the other to discuss the small farm certification program.
- Following small group discussion, the whole group reconvened for larger group discussion and comment.

III. Livestock Exclusion –*Draft for Discussion Purposes Only*

This document was circulated to AWG members for their review under separate cover.

IV. Small Farm Certification –*Draft for Discussion Purposes Only*

This document was circulated to AWG members for their review under separate cover.

V. Review of AWG Work Plan

- A work plan covering the next five meetings for the AWG was distributed to the group.
- The work plan weeks need to be shifted down by one meeting to account for the 3/6/13 meeting concentrating on the Committee proposals that had not been anticipated at the time the plan was drafted.
- The AWG will meet again 3/13/13 to revise and approve of the draft recommendations for Livestock Exclusion and the Small Farm Certification and the AWG Work Plan.

Please Note: AWG recommendations are not in final form. When the recommendations have been agreed upon as acceptable to the AWG, they will be posted.