

# Newsletter

## May 2018



### President's Message

by Chuck Nichols

**H**ello everyone,  
As I write this, spring is almost here and summer is on the horizon. It was a little (maybe bitter) cold in December and early January, then some nice snow and skiing, and now we are into the mud for not too long, or so we all hope.

As you will read inside, we are making some progress on water quality at Seymour Lake, but as we're doing so we have new problems of land-based invasive species. This will take an effort by all to monitor their own property, raise a red flag when they have a question, ask for some help, help your neighbor when needed, and be ready to dig in themselves. With everyone working diligently we can control these plants and eradicate them.

At least for now, the issue of more industrial wind and solar in Vermont seems to be in control under the leadership of Governor Phil Scott. The Governor believes in renewables but also believes we should not be destroying our environment in order to achieve renewable goals. So for now our fears of a year ago may be lessened but we need to be ever vigilant. Governor Scott will join us at the SLA

summer social on July 28th at Camp Winape. David Blittersdorf, an industrial wind and solar developer, was quoted in the press that he will look to other places to develop wind as long as Phil Scott is Vermont's Governor.

As always, it's great working with your SLA board. Also, as always, SLA needs folks to participate, to volunteer, be on a committee, decorate your boat for the boat parade (July 4th) come to the SLA Social July 28th, help with water quality monitoring, etc. You might meet some new folks and renew old acquaintances.

Ruby Jenness's passing makes me stop and think of how many wonderful people are around Seymour Lake. As we all age (except for me) 😊 I greatly appreciate my friends and all those around much more than I would have when I was younger. We all need to look out for one another and work to make our lives around Seymour Lake as great as they can be. ☐

And one final thing: **Go Matt Gol**  
(See article on page 4)

### Governor Phil Scott

**T**he Lake Association has invited VT Gov. Phil Scott to attend our annual Social Gathering this summer and we are thrilled to announce he has accepted our invitation. As in previous years and thanks to Ron and Janet Kolar, Camp Winape will host the event on July 28th at the camp dining hall. We have also invited our sister Lake Echo's Board of Directors to share the Governor's visit with us as both Echo and Seymour are the first two Vermont lakes to receive the coveted Vermont Gold Lake Wise Award. More information will follow as we are nearer to the event. ☐



### Invasive Plant Survey Begins June 11

**Y**our permission is needed for the Shoreland Invasive Species Survey.

Thanks to the many lake shore owners who have given permission for Trevor Banister to survey their properties for Japanese Knotweed and the invasive phragmites this coming June. If you have not already done so, please send an email to Peggy Barter to give your permission.

[sla.newsletter.wq@gmail.com](mailto:sla.newsletter.wq@gmail.com)

### Outdoor Burning

By state law, if you wish to burn natural wood or debris outdoors, you must obtain a burning permit from the Town Forest Fire Warden, Robert Cain at 895-2727.



This Newsletter is a semiannual publication of the Seymour Lake Association, a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of Seymour Lake and the surrounding locality for the benefit of lake users, property owners, and residents of Morgan, Vermont.



### Seymour Lake Association

P.O. Box 36  
 Morgan, Vermont 05853  
[www.facebook.com/seymourlakeassociation](http://www.facebook.com/seymourlakeassociation)  
 Telephone: (802) 766-8895 Website: [www.seymourlake.org](http://www.seymourlake.org)

#### Officers

President:	Chuck Nichols	<a href="mailto:craynichols@me.com">craynichols@me.com</a>	723-4976	cell 802-917-4282
Vice President:	Ted Jewett	<a href="mailto:tnmjewett@comcast.net">tnmjewett@comcast.net</a>	895-4871	cell 802 864-7697
Treasurer:	Jean McKenny	<a href="mailto:jmckenny@together.net">jmckenny@together.net</a>	895-2942	802-766-8895
Secretary:	Linda Buzzell	<a href="mailto:t-lbuzzell@comcast.net">t-lbuzzell@comcast.net</a>	895-4175	home 603-448-3245

#### Directors (Term Ends)

Alan Franklin '18	Bruce Barter '19	Tim Buzzell '20
Erik Lessing '18	Bonnie McWain '19	Tom Adams '20
Frank Antonelli '18	Charles Woods '19	Rhonda Shippee '20

Tom Bonneville—Town of Morgan Select Board Liaison

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- Audit .....[Doug Gimler](#)
- Boating.....[Tim Buzzell](#)
- Dam/Lake Level.....[Tim Buzzell](#), Ron Kolar, Chuck Nichols, Erik Lessing, Candy Moot
- Development/Education. [Lyman McWain](#), Peggy Barter
- Fishing .....[Ron Frascoia](#), Charles Woods, Bill Bilowus
- Grants .....[Beth Torpey](#), Peggy Barter, Linda Broadwater
- Loons .....[Charles "Woody" Woods](#), Eric Hanson, Bonnie & Dave Potter
- Maps .....[Ron Kolar](#)
- Membership .....[Ted Jewett](#), Bruce Barter, Tim Buzzell, Gerry Cahill, Erik Lessing, Ann Torpey, Tom Adams, Chris Blais, Bonnie McWain, Brenda Wierschke
- Milfoil .....[Chuck Nichols](#), Beth Torpey, Peggy Barter
- Newsletter .....[Erik Lessing](#), Bruce Barter, Maggie Griffith
- Nominating .....[Tim Buzzell](#), Ted Jewett, Bonnie McWain
- Water Quality.....[Peggy Barter](#), Frank Antonelli, Linda Broadwater, Tom Emery, Bill Kilpatrick, Dan Barry, Gerry Cahill, Beth Torpey, Ron Kolar, Anthony Lazzara, Erik Lessing, Tracey Shadday, Rhonda Shippee, Charles Woods
- Website .....[Karen Abada](#), Candy Moot, Chuck Nichols, Bruce Barter, Allan Wooley, Erik Lessing

Note: Name underlined is Committee Chair. Others are Committee Members.

Greeters at the Boat Launch: Bud Bergh, Lisa Foster, Penelope Newcomb, Dan Griffith, Beth Torpey, Ed Singer

**Town of Morgan [www.townofmorgan.com](http://www.townofmorgan.com)**

Selectmen—Larry Labor, Chair  
 Robert Guyer  
 Tom Bonneville

Town Clerk/Treasurer—TammyLee Morin  
 Asst. Town Clerk—Amanda Wright

North Country School Director—Joseph Moeykens

Listers—Diane Moore  
 James Judd  
 Joseph Malgeri

Zoning Officer: Steve Matson, 802-895-2886

### Recognition

The newsletter is paid in part with support from VT Department of Environmental Conservation funds. □

### Shoreland Protection Permitting

For questions regarding Shoreland Protection Permitting, contact Lindsay Miller who can be reached at

[Lindsay.miller@vermont.gov](mailto:Lindsay.miller@vermont.gov) and 802-490-6200.

**SLA Tackles Invasive Plant Species: Calls for Volunteers**

by Cynthia Stevens

The Seymour Lake Association (SLA) has launched a campaign to control two invasive plant species to stop them from spreading at our shorelines and needs homeowners' cooperation. The SLA directors last summer appropriated \$4,000 to survey and control phragmites and Japanese Knotweed, in partnership with the Northwoods Stewardship Center. SLA aims to educate homeowners about the negative impact of these invasive plants as well as Purple Loosestrife.

Peggy Barter, who's email is at [sla.newsletter.wq@gmail.com](mailto:sla.newsletter.wq@gmail.com), has been leading the charge to contact people for permission to allow Trevor Banister, an ECO-AmeriCorps intern at Northwoods,

to walk their properties in an effort to map these invasive plants. Once we have a comprehensive view of what we're up against, we can implement a more effective strategy to minimize these unwelcome invasives. Volunteers are welcome so please contact

[stevens\\_cynthia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stevens_cynthia@sbcglobal.net)

So far, phragmites has been identified at a number of properties on Seymour Lake: the southern end of the eastern shore, including Elliot Acres, as well as Cranberry Lane and Wayeeses Shore West. Because of its height and fluffy seed heads, even motorists can spot phragmites. Case in point: a stand of phragmites was identified from Route 111.

For several years at their Seymour property, Woody and Missy Woods have been battling dense phragmites beds with a weed whacker, and with loppers where it has insinuated itself with cattails. The leaves of both plants are so similar it's hard to tell them apart. The Woods burn the invasive plants when they cut them down. Northwoods planted chokeberry, maples, cedar and larch trees amid the couple's dense phragmites to counter their growth, and those native species are doing well. □

**Phragmites**

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC) recommends hand cutting the individual stems below the lowest leaf at the end of July before the flowers produce seed. At that point, most of its food reserves have gone to the top of the plant. Use hand-held cutters, gas-powered hedge trimmers and weed whackers with a circular blade to leave a six-inch stump. The harvested plant material should be burned or dried on a tarp before composting.



Phragmites Plants  
 Flowering Stage      Not yet flowering stage  
 Photos by Rhonda Shippee

**Japanese Knotweed**

For mechanical removal the VTDEC recommends cutting its stalks preferably twice a month in the spring season with a scythe, loppers or lawnmower, if the topography permits. The plant grows up to 10 feet. Do this for five to ten years, and when the knotweed is much smaller and under control, replant with good-sized natives. Taming the knotweed



can take up to 10 years because the roots and rhizomes in the soil are so powerful.

Never leave cuttings on the ground. Spread them on a tarp and compost after thoroughly dry. □

See *Managing Japanese Knotweed* <https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/japanese-knotweed-bmps.pdf>.

**Purple Loosestrife**

Though not yet a focus of the SLA weed team, purple loosestrife is another invasive plant that takes over wet areas. Property owners can begin to attack it on their own. The DEC says small infestations can be manually treated by grabbing each stem at the base and pulling it out slowly. Loosestrife's beautiful magenta blooms can grow up to five feet, and should be broken off before they go to seed. All the discarded vegetation should be disposed of in a plastic bag and not put into a mulch pile.



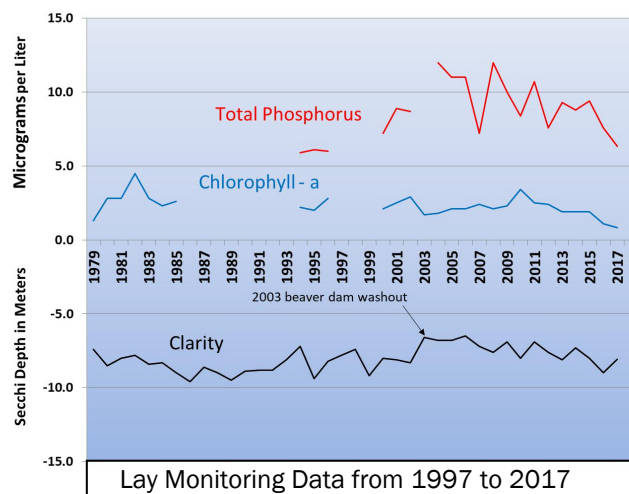
## Tributary Sampling and Lay Monitoring Report

by Peggy Barter and Erik Lessing

In 2017 Seymour Lake Association completed a tributary water quality sampling program to evaluate changes in phosphorus and sediment levels in tributaries to Seymour Lake that were first sampled in 2008 and 2009. Our work was done with guidance from Ben Copans, VTDEC Watershed Coordinator, and led by Trevor Banister, Northwoods Stewardship Center ECO AmeriCorps Intern. The results were similar to those in 2008 and 2009. Unfortunately, we still have not captured data during a significant rain event, so at our request Trevor, with Ben's help, applied for a grant to sample during two rain events this summer if those events occur. We will be conducting further studies in the watersheds of the six tributaries in an effort to learn the causes of the nutrients and sediments flowing into the lake.

We are happy to report that the state of the lake has improved over the last few

years with respect to **phosphorus** levels and **chlorophyll-a** found during Lay Monitoring by Tom Emery. In 2005, an increasing phosphorus trend was observed in Seymour due to a major road washout event that occurred in 2003 when a beaver dam washed out and took out a significant stretch of Route



ty. We will continue to watch this carefully.

In addition to the Lay Monitoring data, VTDEC Lakes and Ponds scientists collect spring runoff data about the flow of phosphorus into the lake. Under natural conditions, the majority of phosphorus inputs to a lake occur during the spring when the flow of inlet streams is high due to snowmelt and spring rains. Spring total phosphorus concentration is related to the potential for algal growth which may occur in a given season. In contrast, summer total phosphorus shows the algal growth on a given sampling day in the summer as well as the potential for future algal growth that summer. Spring phosphorus data is not included in the graph, but indicates a slight upward trend in the amount of phosphorus entering the lake in the spring. Both measures are important to understand the water quality of our lake.

The continuing slight downward trend of clarity in the lake and the slight uptick in phosphorus entering the lake with spring runoff encourage us to conduct further studies. □

111. However, we remain concerned about water clarity because it has not improved as much as the phosphorus has. This causes us to be looking for the possibility of declining water quali-

## Seymour Neighbor to Race Across America

by Rhonda Shippee

Local Morgan resident and "Seymour Laker" Matt Shippee is undertaking a unique challenge this summer as part of a four-man team called the Opportunists that will compete in the cross country cycling endurance race known as Race Across America (RAAM). The team is based out of the Jupiter/Juno Florida area where Matt and his wife Rhonda have been wintering in recent years. Often called the world's toughest bike race, RAAM is a race unlike other grand tours. As one continual stage, once the clock starts, it does not stop until the finish line. The race route begins in Oceanside, CA and travels east, traversing three major mountain ranges (Sierra, Rocky and Appalachian), crosses four of America's longest rivers (Colorado, Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio) and the Great Plains. Also, passing through such iconic American landmarks as the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts, Monument Valley, Great Plains and Gettysburg. It finishes at the docks in Annapolis MD.



The Opportunist Team in Jupiter, FL with Matt Shippee second from the right.

RAAM is about 30% longer than the Tour de France and racers must complete the distance in roughly half the time, with no rest days. Team racers must finish within 9 days but Matt's team is hoping for 7+ days.

The team is riding to raise funds for Opportunity, Inc., an early childhood education and family center that supports and provides education to underprivileged children in West Palm Beach, FL. Look for Matt training this spring on the roads around Morgan. Hopefully our terrain will prepare him for this tough ride. You can follow the team's journey and/or make a donation to the school on their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/The-Opportunists-224633094766306/](http://www.facebook.com/The-Opportunists-224633094766306/). For more information on RAAM and to watch live race action via GPS tracking, visit their website at [www.raceacrossamerica.org](http://www.raceacrossamerica.org). □

**Ruby Jenness**

by Kenni Jenness Freire

**A LOVE AFFAIR BEGINS**

Ruby Jenness's life is a novel of fulfilled intentions and inspiration enriching her family, friends and community, and blazing a trail of stewardship for the lake that brought her great joy. Ruby passed away in Florida February 9 while in the care of her children.

Her love affair with Seymour Lake truly started as a teenager on wintery skating trips with friends and later summer canoe trips to an open spot across the lake. While fulfilling her thirst for knowledge at Lyndon State Teachers College, Ruby Petelle met the love of her life, worked and lived summers at the Gilliam Lodge on Seymour near the present day Buzzell compound. Ruby and her friends took late night canoe excursions to a beachy area on the south side of the lake "L", a treeless shorefront that was once a potato farm, where they enjoyed bonfires and star filled nights.



Never having left the Northeast Kingdom, at 21, Ruby traveled by bus to Washington state to marry Ken Jenness, a young army recruit—a lifetime of adventures were to unfold for her. World War II ignited and Ken was sent overseas. Ruby came back home to Holland where she taught K-8 in a one room school house.

When Ken finally returned from the war, that beachy piece of land they'd enjoyed years earlier became the target of their desires. In 1950 they purchased the property and built a summer cottage which soon became the "go-to" summer respite when the growing Jenness family came home from military duty overseas.

Ruby believed everyone should learn how to swim and so she taught swimming informally on her beach. She later helped start the first Red Cross swimming program at the public beach. She organized swims across the lake for family and friends and accumulated a

variety of boats for summer fun including a challenging wind surfer she conquered in her 70's.

Ruby's love of Seymour and all it offers was evident when new residents came to the lake. She organized hikes to Mt. Elan and over-the-hill to the quarry. She engaged friends to ride horseback for miles surrounding Seymour imbuing her love and respect for the lake to those whom she touched.

Ruby involved herself in every facet of lake life: Sugar-On-Snow parties, Strawberry Shortcake Suppers, the creation of the famous Circle of Friends, the Morgan Historical Society, streams and river inspections, loon counting and nesting. She was a ready kayaker companion for all her friends.

A life well lived is one doing what one intended and having others glad you lived. Ruby's was a life well lived. □

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail — Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Save the Dates**

**May 31:** Thurs. 8:30-10:30AM. Workshop for Best Practices at Shadow Lake Public Access in Glover. C.f. page 8 for contacts.

**May 25:** Fri. 6PM. Morgan Historical Society (MHS) Spring Ham Dinner, at the Morgan Community House.

**June 1:** Fri. 8:30AM Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP), Partners for healthy lakes: Exploring data, science, and tools together. College of Fine Arts, 36 College St., Montpelier. Register at <http://vermontlakes.org/about-us/lake-seminar/> or at the door.

**July 1:** Sun. 10AM. Echo Lake Protective Association sponsors the 4th annual Color Challenge Run/Walk. This is a 5K fun event for all. Details at [echolakeassociation.net](http://echolakeassociation.net).

**July 4:** Wed. 2PM. Boat Parade. No Rain Date:

**July 18:** Wed. 11AM. MHS Annual Meeting & Pot Luck at the Morgan Center Church building..

**July 19:** Thurs. 1–3PM. A Lake Shore Walk with four experts in Lake Shore Management. See the article on the last page of this newsletter.

**July 28:** Sat. 9AM. SLA Annual Meeting at Morgan Community House.

**Jul 28:** Sat. Time TBA. SLA Summer Social for members and guests at Camp Winape.

**Aug 8:** Wed. Circle of Friends Bazaar. Location and time TBA

**Membership by Ted Jewett /Bruce Barter**

We ended the year with a total number of membership units (375) slightly below last year's all time high of membership units (382). The number of associated donations from members (of any dollar amount) was the highest ever at 224. The percentage of lakefront properties with at least one active SLA member was identical to 2016 at 71.4%. That falls short of what we attained in 2013 and 2014, but it is still respectable.

Also of significance, we had 104 members who don't own property on the lakeshore. Those are people who own property in Morgan, but not on the lakeshore (74), and people

who don't own any property in Morgan (30).

Please note the complete list of active 2017 members on pages 6 & 7. Thanks to all of them for supporting the Association and also thanks to those who made an additional generous donation. In March, 2018 we sent membership renewal letters to all members as of year end 2017. □

## Thank You to the Following Seymour Lake Association Members for Your Support in 2017

Hamid & Karen Abada	Peter Bullock	Skip & Jan Durfey	Maureen Hall
Adam & Louisa	Emily Bowser	Randy & Laurie Durivage	Daniel Brush
Tom & Cindy Adams	William & Karen Burgess	Fred & Carol Edgerley and Family	Dean Hamel
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Kevin, Sydney & Kyle Boivin	Thomas & Shirley Coney	Janet & Alex Frisch	Ruby P. Jenness
Sue, Tom, Amy & Scott Bolasevich	Pat & Harlan Connary	Sylvia Geiger	William Jenney
Rob, Sherylanne & Andy	Sara Connolly	Robert Millikin	Brian Jewett
Ray & Peggy Bolduc	Stephen & Janet Connor	Barbara Gildersleeve	Matt & Jackie Jewett
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Nancy & David Bullock and Family	Tracey Becken	Dave & Debbie Hadley	Robert & Cynthia Kern
Peter & Meghan	Rene Ducharme	John P. Hale	Brian & Debi Kerr

## Thank You to the Following Seymour Lake Association Members for Your Support in 2017

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Nancy & Larry Kilinski	Loraine Melick-Seronick	Bill & Diane Reeves	Casimer S. Sudol
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Laura & Jason Lundgren	Mark, Jeff & Diane	David & Patricia Sanders	Tom & Amy Wagner
Liz & Bob Lundgren	Gary & Nancy Olney	Scott & Christina Schissel	Rick & Elaine Waldo
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Michael Malley	Robert & Debra Partridge	Sean & Tara Selby	Joan Watson
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James & Linda McDonald	Barbara Pollex	Richard Parry	Thomas & Barbara Wood
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James & Bonnie McWain	Jim & Mary Ann Pratt	Gary Stevens	Heather & Robert Zeagman
Lyman & Jackson McWain	Walter & Leona Quigg	Michael & Debi Stevens	Alexander, Allyssa & Austin

## Types of Ticks in Vermont

by Jean McKenny

Most of us noticed the large number of encounters with ticks last spring and early summer. For many, this was the first time and the only time to have seen this. From the Vermont Department of Health here is a short primer on them:

Thirteen different species of ticks have been identified in Vermont and of these 13 species, five are known to bite humans and four of those five can transmit diseases. However, over 99% of all tickborne diseases reported to the Vermont Department of Health are caused by only one tick: the blacklegged tick.

**Name:** Blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)

**Distribution:** Blacklegged ticks can be

found throughout Vermont.

**Transmits:** Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Powassan virus disease, and *Borrelia miyamotoi* disease.

**Hosts:** white-footed mouse, deer mouse, chipmunks, shrews, white-tailed deer.

**Activity:** In Vermont blacklegged tick activity fluctuates throughout the year. After laying low during the cold winter months, these ticks usually become active in late March or early April. Their peak activity typically occurs in May and June when nymphal ticks are about the size of a poppy seed and are looking for a host. Tick activity increas-



es once again in October and November when adult ticks are looking for another host before cold winter temperatures set in once again. □

## Green Mountain Conservation Camp

Last summer the SLA Board voted \$250 to sponsor a scholarship for a local boy or girl to attend the Green Mountain Conservation Camps for one week in 2018. After an email blast in February describing the sponsorship,

we received applications from two boys who have connections to Seymour Lake. Although we had voted to sponsor one child this year, one of our board members graciously offered to donate the money to sponsor the second boy

as well. Therefore, with many thanks we offered a scholarship to both boys. We hope that they have a good experience at the camp and that there is continued interest in attending the Green Mountain Conservation Camps next year. □

## July 19th Workshop

Come learn how native trees can brighten your shore, stabilize slopes, filter stormwater, and provide essential habitat for wildlife. This Workshop will teach best forestry practices along the shore and upland in the watershed, including tree management under the new Shoreland Protection Act's Vegetative Management Practices. Bring questions about tree care and join us outside, rain or shine, as we tour trees along the shore and upland.

Please join us for this lake shore walk on Thursday, July 19 from 1 – 3 PM. Topics include Lake Shore vegetation, provisions of the Lake Shore Protection Act, Lake Shore Forestry practic-

es and lake shore permitting. **Participants are requested to register so that we can be prepared for the size of the group. RSVP by email or phone to Kendall Lambert, Administrative Director of MWA, [klambert@mwavt.org](mailto:klambert@mwavt.org) or by phone at 802-487-0160.**

The workshop/walk will be hosted on the Jim Judd property which has excellent sites for lake shore and forest land. Because of limited parking space at the site, **please arrive at 12:30 to park** at the four corners adjacent to Town Hall and carpool in. This event will be publicized throughout the Memphremagog Watershed. □

## Boat Launch by Beth Torpey

Regarding the depth of water in the area of the fishing access. There have been instances of boats getting hung up on the bottom when exiting the fishing access area. Personnel from the VTDEC explored this issue last year by taking depth measurements in the area of the fishing access. A

depth chart was developed and is posted on the Greeter shack, the SLA kiosk as well as one of the sign posts by the access ramps. At this point, there is no plan by VTDEC to take any additional action, specifically including dredging of the area. □