

# Lake Champlain Sea Grant Program Advisory Committee

## Friday, September 13, 2024

### Agenda and Notes

Location: In-person aboard the R/V *Marcelle Melosira*.

Meeting Goals: Lake Champlain Sea Grant's (LCSG) Program Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet one another and LCSG staff, discuss upcoming research priorities, learn about ongoing outreach on the new research vessel and try their hands as limnologists, as well as discuss our upcoming site review and opportunities for a collaborative DEI training.

#### Objectives:

The LCSG PAC will:

- Exchange introductions with one another and LCSG staff
- Learn about the new UVM research vessel and ongoing education, outreach and research
- Help identify research priorities for the upcoming LCSG request for proposals
- Learn about PAC responsibilities at the upcoming LCSG site review (June 24-25, 2025)
- Discuss shared diversity, equity and inclusion training

#### Activities

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|-------------------|--|
| 12:15 PM/3:00 PM  | Arrive, park and sign waivers  |
| 12:30 PM /3:15 PM | Board research vessel  |
| 12:35 PM/3:20 PM  | Safety talk and intro to R/V <i>Marcelle Melosira</i> – Taylor Resnick |
| 12:40 PM/3:25 PM  | Welcome and introductions / Explore the R/V – Kris and Anne            |
| 12:55 PM/3:40 PM  | LCSG research program highlights and priorities – Gretchen             |
| 1:25 PM/4:10 PM   | R/V education and outreach – Ashley, Caroline, Tori, Kris and Aude     |
| 1:55 PM/4:40 PM   | Site Review planning – Kris  |
| 2:05 PM/4:50 PM   | Diversity, equity, and inclusion training – Kris                       |
| 2:15 PM/5:00 PM   | Open conversation and exploration – All                                |
| 2:30 PM/5:15 PM   | Adjourn  |

#### Attendees

First trip: Anne, Ashley, Caroline, Alison, Kris, Tim, Aude, Tori, Mark, Tom, Erin, Lori, Jillian;  
Second trip: Annie, Anne, Sabrina, Eric, Anna, Chris, Owen, Nidhi, Rebecca, Curt, Roy, Mark, Shawn, Kris, Gretchen, Jill, Tim, Tori

#### Research Program Highlights and Priorities

- On each of the two R/V trips, Gretchen Nareff introduced herself as this was her first time meeting most PAC members following her arrival to LCSG in February 2024. She then shared a summary of the five currently funded LCSG-supported research projects. Finally, she led participants through an exercise to help us prioritize and identify any new high priority research topics for the next LCSG RFP due out late this year.
- PAC members asked for a compiled list of what research is funded across organizations in the Lake Champlain basin (e.g., GLFC, LCBP [Matt], Water Center) and to see what other PAC members suggest from across the two R/V trips today to inform their input.

- **Action item:** LCSG will compile this information and then share with PAC members in the next week or two. We will then ask PAC members to provide feedback electronically or to request a meeting with LCSG staff to provide further input.
- Priority research topics identified through conversation during the meeting that should be considered to be included as priorities:
  - o Participatory science projects when trying to prioritize
  - o Topics emphasizing environmental justice
  - o Climate change and impacts on traditional winters (e.g., ice cover, snowpack, recreational sporting, economics)
  - o How upland land use and zoning regulations impact water quality – with an emphasis on community planning... Waterbury has 5-acre zoning and people don't have idea of how those decisions impact what's happening downstream
  - o Traditional local knowledge (e.g., how were lakes and streams managed traditionally and how might such practices improve the lake health if used today?)
  - o Also see people's notes on their research priority handouts (summarized separately)
- Lower priority:
  - o pH studies in the lake (maybe assessing this in basin rivers would be more appropriate or as related to cyanobacteria blooms?)

### Site Review Planning

- Kris provided an overview of the upcoming (June 24-25, 2025) site review of Lake Champlain Sea Grant efforts carried out between 2018 and 2024. She provided two handouts to attendees. One described the 10 areas on which LCSG and all Sea Grant programs will be judged during the site reviews. The other included the recommendations and suggestions from the 2019 site review, using this to help explain how the site reviews are organized and the outcomes and response expected from LCSG following receipt of the site review report from the committee.
- To help inform the site review agenda, Kris then asked PAC members to share thoughts about work LCSG has done since 2018 that they feel has been particularly impactful. The following topics were suggested:
  - o LCSG's role to provide road salt education and that translating into salt reduction and cost savings for communities
  - o LCSG's role to lead development, implementation, and summary of the Lake Champlain basin public awareness survey; particularly, how that led to identifying education weaknesses that have been acted upon by LCBP or other organizations.
  - o Champlain Basin Education Initiative (CBEI) and how LCSG is helping to train next generation of students
  - o Green infrastructure ...focusing in work to disadvantaged communities
  - o Jill's work with verification and developing the formula program and ensuring the longevity of clean water projects
  - o Unifying stormwater project initiated with LCSG funds to bring together groups; that led to request to LCBP for further funding to allow the watershed groups to convene to align messaging. Jill is now filling a gap to help that work continue.
  - o Sarah Coleman's work with LCSG and LCC (partnered funding) laid groundwork for the *Soaking Up Stormwater* curriculum. This is used not only by LCSG with the Green Schools program, but by other orgs, such as LCC with their stormwater reduction and education programming.
  - o Responsiveness of LCSG to orgs such as LCC – orgs bring needs to us and asks us to think creatively about solutions and LCSG delivers.

- Expanded Watershed Alliance to NY with additional funding from institutional status. Very successful programming there now and leveraged \$ from LCBP.
- Collaboration with LCBP, LCRI and others to bring researchers together to present their data and getting it out into community (e.g., through webinars/seminar series)
- Highlight the Lakes Lay Monitoring program...huge position for the state to fill and data are used in many ways to support the state decisions.
- DEI collaborative trainings...helpful to smaller orgs to have these
- Workforce development trainings for watershed professionals. LCBP helps fund, but then all get up to speed together to elevate things across the basin.
- LCSG led way with language translations and multilingual educational programming.
- LCSG role to support microplastics research and education. Influencing state policies.
- Kim Coleman's original work with upward bound...youth education and employment and this connects Ice fishing research (recently published) and potential next steps with recommendations
- Bioreactor work in Lake George...First municipal wwtp plant and that work was published. They were successful at getting the town of Bolton to pu in more. This technology came from agriculture...use
- Kris' and Mark's roles in the IJC study
- Sea Grant Scholars – program overview and where Scholars are now (e.g., Ishan à Rep Balint's office)
- Highlighting actions taken in response to recommendations and suggestions from 2019
- Kris shared that LCSG will be preparing a site review book this fall and early winter and that we plan to hold our next PAC meeting in late February to gather feedback from the PAC about the draft version of that 25-page document.
- LCSG will provide further guidance to PAC about their role in site review at that meeting and as the site review approaches.

### DEI Collaborative Training?

- Bring this up to DEI Committee in UVM Extension. Action item: Kris to do this.
- Workshops in past were good (implicit bias; traditional ways of knowing; working across cultures/race)
- Possible new topics:
  - Neurodiverse learners and appropriate language surrounding (e.g., autism, adhd)
  - LGBTQ webinar from Sea Grant hosted in LCB