

Friday, July 18, 2014

CFL Petition to Sec of Ag to require BMP on CSA ag soils.

This gathering demonstrates the URGENCY of cleaning up the Lake.

Let this gathering serve to put the Governor, Legislators, and Candidates, and State Agencies on notice that Franklin and Grand Isle county voters are frustrated with past low political will and insufficient financial effort that has been put into the nutrient runoff problem in MRB.

For over a decade, FNLC has had success working with our knowledgeable Vermont Ag dept staff, UVM Extension Agronomists, and USDA NRCS in creating solutions on farms by working one-on-one with producers.

This process of working one on one on the ground has been enhanced by the release of the CSA study in 2011. FNLC has featured an explanation of the plan at our annual meetings of 2011 and 2013 and our Advisory Council meeting of 2013. It is a trusted tool to point to potential problems on farm land and allows us to evaluate and work up a plan with the farm.

Working on each individual farm is slow, but rewarding process that is in full momentum that is in danger of being derailed if a new layer of distrust is introduced at this time. Truly sustainable work is being done in the field and the major hurdle for immediate accomplishment is the chronic lack of knowledge, personnel in the field.

FNLC has called for increased Ag staff to educate small farms about BMP's for a decade and finally got funding for one position last year.

Reference H138 Water Quality Remediation, Implementation and Funding Report of January, 2013

FNLC Action Step #2 for 2014

Provide 3.5 million dollars annually for a minimum of 3 years in order to permanently retire from row crop or seed down 10% of the landscape that was estimated to contribute 37% of the phosphorous load to Missisquoi Bay in the 2011 Missisquoi River Basin Critical Source Area study. The money would be used to appropriately compensate landowners to implement, agronomic practices that will continually minimize non-point nutrient runoff, in perpetuity, from these most sensitive areas of the landscape

FNLC expects that legislators and candidates will make themselves aware of H 138 Report of January, 2013

FNLC Action Step #1 for 2014

Prioritize and fund water quality investments through a Clean Water Fund (CWF). Money for this fund should be raised by collecting a per parcel fee from all Vermont landowners. A minimum of \$10 Million is needed annually, which would translate into approximately \$30 per parcel. This fund should be administered by an independent public-private organization, similar to the Efficiency Vermont model and used to develop and implement on-the-ground projects and provide technical assistance to reduce land-use pollution.

\$2⁰⁰ / week - Income tax for
clean water
Same amount as buying
1 bottle of water.
=\$160 million