

Summary of Friday, Jan 17 1997 meeting of Lake Champlain Research Consortium:

Attending: Doug Facey (St. Michael's), Ellen Marsden (UVM), Mary Watzin (UVM), Pat Manley (Middlebury), Tom Manley (Middlebury), Dick Furbush (UVM), John Heinbokel (Trinity), Tom Hudspeth (UVM), Donna Parrish (VT Fish & Wildlife Coop Unit), Al McIntosh (UVM), Richard Kujawa (St. Michael's), Tim Scherbatskoy (UVM), Jack Lindsay (UVM)

The meeting was intended to be an open discussion of where the LCRC currently is and where we would like to go. We all acknowledged the inactivity over most of the last two years, and all recognized that the primary reason was the lack of an Executive Director. Mary Watzin and Bob Genter (Johnson State) had both filled the position in the past, but when Bob had to give it up, none of us was in a position to commit the time needed to fill the position. The time demands were especially harsh a few years back due to the activities of the Lake Champlain Management Conference and the need for the LCRC Executive Director to attend many Management Conference meetings. It seems that since its inception the LCRC's activities have largely been driven by the activities of the Management Conference. Now, with the Management Conference having completed its work, perhaps the LCRC can focus more on developing its own agenda, and, hopefully, there won't be as much demand placed on the LCRC Executive Director. During the open discussion many good ideas were brought up regarding what the LCRC could do in both the near and more distant future. Several of these suggestions, such as the appointment of a new Executive Director, will need to be addressed by the Executive Board in the very near future, so that everything else can follow. (The Executive Board is composed of the Presidents of the seven member institutions, or their designated representatives.)

Items for the Executive Board to consider and take action on (meeting has not yet been scheduled, but I hope to get this done soon):

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1. Appointment of a new Executive Director. Dr. Al McIntosh (UVM) has expressed a willingness to serve in this vital role.

2. Approve planning for a fall workshop to review research over the last 5 years or so and plan for the future (similar to the Dec 1991 workshop that some of us participated in). The point was made that we should invite participation by others, including state and federal agency folks. Mary Watzin feels that we might be able to get some financial support from the Lake Champlain Basin Program to hold the workshop. Tom Manley indicated that the American Geophysical Union might be able to support the publication of the proceedings of this workshop.

3. Discuss costs and benefits of the LCRC. Institutional dues are low (I think it's \$300 per year, and I don't think dues were even collected in 1996), and we could certainly do more with additional funds. But first, let's get things moving again. The issue of compensation for the Executive Director, perhaps in the form of some reduced teaching load, should also be considered. The main reason that some of us have not been willing to serve as Executive Director (I include myself in this) is because we are simply far too busy with other obligations. Yet, without good leadership.....(you know the rest.)

4. Approve planning and expenditures (minimal) for 1997 Spring Student Symposium (I thought of this after the meeting, and took the liberty of adding it to the list). I've organized this for the past four years, and will gladly do it again if the Executive Board gives it's approval. Cost would be under \$100 (small fee for use of a room, plus cost of some refreshments). This has provided a nice opportunity for us to give our undergraduate and graduate students the center stage and have them give brief presentations on their research (either completed or in progress). No definite date yet - but most likely an evening in mid April. (Past experience has shown me that mid-week evenings are better than Saturday mornings.)

Other ideas that came up during discussion:

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- need to increase involvement of those involved in social science research (we need more people involved overall if this is going to work....)

- open LCRC to more individuals than our academic audience (again, we need to get more people involved)

- develop focus/direction for future research on the lake and surrounding basin (a counter-point was made here, supporting the LCRC as a means of bringing people together to share ideas and make contacts, but not to develop an agenda for what "should" be done)
- sponsor public opinion surveys (will gather valuable information about public perceptions of the lake and lake- related research, and also generate some positive publicity for the LCRC through local press)
- develop LCRC Web Site (I have student support to get this started in the near future. If you've got some ideas, and especially if you have some nice color photos/slides of the lake, tributaries, basin, research activities, sunsets behind the Adirondacks...whatever.... please send them to me at St. Mike's. We'll scan and return them. Obviously, anything that's in a published source, and therefore copyrighted, is off limits.....)
- reminder that LCRC does have some equipment to share (we need to get a list of what's available, and who has it when it's not on loan..... please send me any info that you can) - develop LCRC library to facilitate sharing of reports, papers, data,.....

Announcements

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(1) UVM is proceeding with the Lake Lab, on the waterfront, adjacent to the Science Center. Although this will be a UVM facility, it is my understanding that there may be some opportunity for collaborative work with other LCRC institutions. (correct me if I'm wrong....)

(2) US Fish and Wildlife Service is interested in forming partnerships with researchers who might be interested in using currently unused raceways at the fish hatchery in Pittsford, VT. Could be some nice opportunities for living stream projects. Raceways are outdoors, uncovered, stream or spring fed, 100 ft long , 8 ft wide, about 1.5 feet deep. Dave Tilton of the USFWS office in Essex Junction will be in touch with the LCRC in the future, but I figured I'd give you a sneak preview.

(3) As mentioned earlier... start getting your students who are involved in research projects ready for a mid-April student symposium. More details will follow (probably in February).

That's it for now folks. If you have any other ideas, send them along.