

Hurley, Sarah

From: James Fischer <James@whitememorialcc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 12:00 PM
To: Hurley, Sarah
Subject: Bantam Lake Watershed Based Plan Comments

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The following comments are regarding the Bantam Lake Watershed Based Plan.

I would like to first thank all those who led, managed, and contributed to this document. Nutrient loading is contributing to many of Bantam Lake's conservation issues, including harmful algal blooms and invasive species. This document helped me understand how we can mitigate nutrient loading while prioritizing each project on the basis of nutrient removal, costs, proximity to waterbody, implementation complexity, and public visibility. This plan provides the stakeholders with a tool box that encourages us to evaluate future management sites as they arise.

Thank you for acknowledging the efforts made by the volunteers and staff of White Memorial Conservation Center to document potential nutrient loading sites throughout the watershed. Their efforts were extraordinary. They collected data on over 200 sites in three and half weeks during the months of May and June, 2020. They stepped forward when COVID-19 dominated our lives. Afterwards, their evaluations stated that they enjoyed the opportunity to serve a project with a greater purpose while spending time outdoors while social distancing. They did a great job given the circumstances. Nevertheless, I would like to addresses some of the potential biases and errors that may have been incorporated into their efforts. I am concerned that some sites may have been under-represented. Land Stewards from the Litchfield Land Trust performed stream walks on properties where they have land owner agreements for conservation easements. Unfortunately, not all tributaries were assessed thoroughly by performing stream-walks. Sites within Litchfield town center could have been underrepresented, therefore run-off associated with impervious surfaces. Farms with high density of livestock and poorly maintained septic fields are challenging to document because it requires access to private property. I think the best way to address these potential deficiencies would be to perform follow-up site surveys during the course of this management plan.

Best regards,

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