

AMERICORPS WORKER TO HELP AT CARMİ

The Franklin Watershed Committee has selected Sam deWahl, a resident of Enosburg, to serve as an AmeriCorps worker.

He will be assisting the FWC in planning and carrying out projects to improve the health of the Lake Carmi watershed, said committee

Franklin Watershed Committee has its first AmeriCorps staffer

FRANKLIN — The Franklin Watershed Committee (FWC) has been accepted as an AmeriCorps Sponsor for 2010 providing an opportunity to expand its work to improve the health of the Lake Carmi watershed.

To that end, the FWC, in a press release, said it has selected Sam deWahl, a resident of Enosburgh, as an AmeriCorps staffer. He will be assisting the FWC this spring and summer in planning and carrying out local environmental projects.

FWC President Jim Cameron, said, "We are thrilled to have an AmeriCorps member working with us, and to have Sam as the pioneer, the first of his kind to assist the committee."

Camerson said, "Sam's energy and skills will be invaluable as we continue to make progress in our community and environment."

Since it was formed in 2000, FWC has made efforts to reduce

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erosion and improve roads around the lakeshore, worked with farmers to increase the practice of winter cover crop planting, and has raised awareness among landowners about the need for proper septic system maintenance.

All this work has been conducted with what the FWC says is its overarching goal of reducing the amount of phosphorus and sediment that makes it into Lake Carmi from the watershed. FWC applied to have

an AmeriCorps member from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board AmeriCorps to work with the FWC full time during the spring and summer months.

"Saying that the FWC looks forward to a long partnership with the VHCB AmeriCorps program, Peter Benevento, vice president of the FWC Board, added "The relationship will serve to enhance the skills of the AmeriCorps members that work with us, while

they help us to improve the environment around Lake Carmi. It is totally a win-win situation."

Working closely with the Lake Carmi community will be a major part of deWahl's duties, and he said he is eager to get to know the farmers and land owners who use the land around the lake. "This is a wonderful opportunity for me to learn more about local environmental issues, and contribute something positive to the area where I

grew up," he said.

FWC's membership forms are available at meetings of the FWC, which are held the second Thursday of every month in the Felco Room at Franklin Homestead, from 7 to 9 p.m. The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 8, and there will be a special cover crop informational meeting on Thursday, April 15. To find out more, please contact: Heidi Britch-Valenta, hbv@franklinvt.net