



UPPER VALLEY RIVER SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes - January 26, 2009

Piermont NH

PRESENT: David Minsk, Hanover; Linda Wilson, Hartford; Carl Schmidt, Orford; Linda Matteson, Cy Severance, Thetford; Steve Stocking and Mary Daly, Fairlee; Charles Grant, Piermont; David Jorgensen, Lebanon; Commissioner Joe Sampson, Bradford; Adair Mulligan, CRJC

ABSENT: Lyme, Norwich

PUBLIC: Bob Barnum, Lyme; Scott Labun and Jim Doig, Riverbend Subcommittee representatives of Newbury, VT

BUSINESS MEETING

1. Housekeeping: Lyme has appointed Lou-Anne Conroy to the Subcommittee. Minutes of the meeting of September 15 were approved on a motion by Mary, seconded by Steve. Linda Wilson noted that Hartford's planning maps show the shoreland protection buffer. The Recreation Plan will soon be mailed to the 350 communities, organizations, commissioners, subcommittee members and agencies on the distribution list, and posted on the web. The Water Resources Plan is currently being designed. Staff time shortage and budget concerns have precluded CRJC from printing the subcommittee versions, but their summaries will be included in the published overviews and the full plans will be posted on the web. The next meeting, likely to be held in March/April, will showcase the Water Resources Plan. Adair displayed DES' new handbook for sustainable development: *Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques*, and gave the subcommittee's copy to David Minsk. Announcements included a League of Women Voters lecture series on ground water issues.
2. Permit issues : Mary reported that the Thetford floodplain development project has gone to court.
3. Tri-State Connecticut River Targeted Watershed Initiative: Adair distributed results of 2008 water quality monitoring, which will continue in 2009. No bacteria levels of concern in NH/VT areas sampled, although some very high readings were found in MA. As part of this project, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission will work with Lebanon and Enfield on smart growth tools for water supply protection.
4. Mascoma River - Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission has also received a grant from the drinking water source protection program to explore nomination of this tributary to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program, because the river is the prime source of drinking water for Lebanon.
5. Route 4 Bridge over the Connecticut River: A public meeting has been scheduled to receive ideas and share information, on February 11 in Hartford. CRJC prepared a response to an initial request for information last fall, based upon the subcommittee's findings. Carl noted that the situation with this bridge is an example of deferred maintenance by NH DOT, and may be too deteriorated to save. He advised that the subcommittee urge DOT to address the other remaining historic bridge in the region, the Lyme-East Thetford Bridge, sooner rather than later. Presently, it is believed that this bridge is on the list for work in 2016.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

6. CRJC and the new Water Resources Management Plan: Adair Mulligan welcomed members of the public and gave a brief presentation to introduce the work of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions and the Upper Valley River Subcommittee. Their new Water Resources Management Plan calls upon NH DES to inform citizens about the updated Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act, and urges towns and landowners to carefully consider how their shorelands are managed and developed. The Commissions and the Subcommittee recommend that riparian buffers and floodplains be protected, and that Vermont, the only Northeastern state without shoreland protection, adopt such a law.
7. The Updated New Hampshire Shoreland Protection Law - Jay Aube of NH DES's Shoreland Program gave an extensive presentation about the newly updated law, the purpose behind it, the protections that apply, and what requires a shoreland permit and examples of what does not. Jay explained how to handle projects that were underway as the law changed, and offered himself as a source of information. An energetic question and answer session followed. The evening's presentation was supported by a grant from NH DES' Clean Water Act section 604(b) funding.