



## MT. ASCUTNEY REGION RIVER SUBCOMMITTEE Minutes - February 10, 2009

PRESENT: Ted Putnam and Jan Lambert, Charlestown; Bob Woodman and Allan Berggren, Claremont; Nancy Franklin, Sharon Francis, Adair Mulligan, CRJC

ABSENT: Cornish, Weathersfield, Hartland, Springfield, Rockingham, Windsor

1. Housekeeping - Minutes of the meeting of September 9 were approved on a motion by Bob seconded by Allan. The Recreation Plan has been 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. CRJC is applying for funding to publish the subcommittees' Water Resources Plans. 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 Ted.
2. 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, Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission will work with Springfield on innovative techniques for stormwater management. An intriguing and highly informative interactive website is being designed for this project that will allow users to "visit" the river to learn about the many projects underway and their findings. Adair will circulate the web address when it is ready for viewing.
3. Middle Connecticut River Important Bird Area - CRJC, the NH and VT Audubon societies, The Nature Conservancy, conservation districts, area land trusts, fish and game/wildlife agencies, and regional planning commissions have been looking at habitat conservation possibilities for migrating birds and other wildlife in this IBA, which includes the area from Weathersfield Bow to the Massachusetts line. There will be a meeting on March 27 in Walpole to explain findings so far and to ask town representatives and other stakeholders how best to proceed. Subcommittee members have been invited. Jan suggested that the birding group that meets in Charlestown and the Ascutney Mountain Audubon group should be included.
4. Announcements - Bob reported that a major building project is being completed in Claremont.
5. 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 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.
6. 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. A question and answer session followed. The evening's presentation was supported by a grant from NH DES' Clean Water Act section 604(b) funding.