



MT. ASCUTNEY REGION RIVER SUBCOMMITTEE Minutes - June 9, 2009

PRESENT: Margaret Perry and Tom Hernon, Rockingham; Bob Woodman, Claremont; Michael Meeks, Cornish; Nancy Franklin, Adair Mulligan, CRJC

ABSENT: Springfield, Charlestown, Windsor, Weathersfield, Hartland

1. Housekeeping - Welcomed new member Michael Meeks of Cornish. Potential new member Cordie Merritt of Hartland, who cannot attend on second Tuesdays. All members present could attend meetings on third Tuesdays; Adair will poll rest of subcommittee. Minutes of the meeting of April 7 were approved on a motion by Bob seconded by Tom. Water Resources Plan is now in publication, thanks to economic stimulus funding. Concern expressed about lack of effective cooperation from state of Vermont, with the exception of area basin planners, and that Lake Champlain draws the state's attention and funding to the detriment of the Connecticut River. Members commented that Vermont has not earned its "green" image when it comes to river stewardship, and was well behind New Hampshire in this area. Tom noted that Cyndy Kozara's participation from the regional planning commission had been very helpful, and she is missed.
2. Upper Connecticut River Partnership Act - Reintroduced by the VT and NH Congressional delegation in both House and Senate, and would provide authorization to restore CRJC's grant program. Funding will also be sought.
3. Permit issues
 - a. Exit 7 (Springfield) Park & Ride Lot - Southern Windsor County RPC is following the subcommittee's minutes and reports that this new lot is temporary but a permanent setup will be made at the site with a full design review process.
 - b. Vilas Bridge - update on bridge closure - concrete is being tested to help guide restoration. Margaret has heard that the bridge is not scheduled for work for many years, and because it was heavily used by commuters, the closing makes a big difference at some times of day.
4. Tri-State Connecticut River Targeted Watershed Initiative - no bacteria violations found in 2008; training for water quality monitoring in 2009 will be held June 24. Michael volunteered. Bob asked about monitoring locations, noting that cows are polluting a small tributary in Claremont just north of the Sugar River confluence.
5. GET WET program - to educate students on issue of drinking water quality and protection - the two communities selected for NH and VT are Plainfield and Windsor.
6. Rockingham - Tom noted that the town is forming a conservation commission this week.
7. Public presentation - Adair Mulligan gave a presentation on the new Connecticut River Water Resources Management Plan for the Mt. Ascutney Region, which was videotaped for future airing on community access TV. Members offered helpful feedback. The presentation will be given at least twice more in the fall.