



Connecticut River Joint Commissions

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Wantastiquet Subcommittee Annual Report - 2016

The Wantastiquet Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions consists of two volunteers nominated by each of the following municipalities: Westminster, Putney, Dummerston, Brattleboro, and Vernon in Vermont; and Walpole, Westmoreland, Chesterfield, and Hinsdale in New Hampshire.

The Subcommittee meets approximately four times each year to discuss and act on a variety of river-related issues. Meetings are generally held in Brattleboro. Specific responsibilities include providing advice to NHDES, VANR and municipalities on matters pertaining to the river; reviewing and commenting on proposed permits and plans; and developing and periodically updating a corridor management plan. As appropriate we work in coordination with other river conservation and planning organizations, such as the Connecticut River Watershed Council, the New Hampshire Rivers Council, the Connecticut River Paddlers, the Windham Regional Commission, and Southwest Region Planning Commission.

Subcommittee members bring a valuable contribution of expertise and local knowledge to the table for the assistance of landowners, municipalities and state agencies. This year Subcommittee members represented the interests of the River and its resources, as well as landowners and local municipalities, in the federal relicensing process for TransCanada's Vernon Dam hydroelectric facility. Comments were submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding bank erosion and the need for mitigation funds to assist property owners with damage caused by riverbank erosion.

The Subcommittee also reviewed New Hampshire's boat accesses and boat access maps for the N.H. Public Water Access Advisory Board. In addition, members assisted with an inventory of boat launch speed limit signs, which resulted in the production and installation of signs with New Hampshire speed limits at Vermont Fish & Wildlife and TransCanada launches (N.H. laws govern activities on the river.)

There are currently openings on the Subcommittee in several communities. If you are interested in working with volunteers from area communities on river conservation issues, and serving as a liaison to your municipal boards, please contact our Planning Coordinator Tara Bamford (tara.bamford@crjc.org).