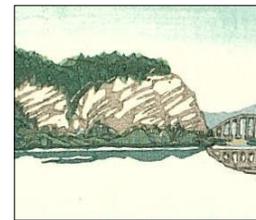


# Upper Valley River Subcommittee

New Hampshire - Piermont, Orford, Lyme, Hanover, Lebanon  
Vermont - Bradford, Fairlee, Thetford, Norwich, Hartford



## Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2015

**Members Present:** Jim Kennedy, Alice Creagh, Tara Bamford, Carl Schmidt, Linda Matteson, John Mudge, Melissa Horwitz, Sue Mackenzie

**Minutes:** Meeting minutes from October 2014 were approved (motion by John, second by Melissa)

- ❖ Minutes from October approved with one minor wording modification

## Update from CRJC - CRJC Commissioner Tara Bamford to discuss the Wilder Dam and Vermont shorelands regulations

- ❖ Presentation on the VT Shorelands Regs. → ANR staff are happy to come to a meeting to discuss the impacts to the CT River Valley because the regulations don't exclude certain areas along the watershed
- ❖ Tara presented the subcommittee with a handout on shoreland development from the Watershed Mgmt. Division
- ❖ Question posed: how does the Subcommittee feel about the Wilder Dam not being included?
- ❖ No one knows how they determine the mean water level for a reservoir
  - ◆ Wouldn't it be great if we could get both sides of the river treated in roughly an equivalent manner?
- ❖ Vote to have CRJC send a letter to ANR to include Wilder Dam in the Shorelands Protection rules passed unanimously; Tara to action this item on behalf of us and the entire CRJC

## Subcommittee Name Alteration

- ❖ Jim feels that the level of importance/gravitas by changing the name to a "local river management advisory committee" to help, in part, with our recruitment efforts
- ❖ Tara thinks we can change this in the CRJC bylaws

## Initiative to create a permitting process guide for NH and VT landowners

- ❖ Buffer guides exist on the website ("Planting Riparian Buffers," <http://crjc.org/buffers/Planting%20Riparian%20Buffers.pdf>)
- ❖ Jim wonders if perhaps we could funnel ideas to DES short of getting a complete UNH study and streambank guidelines out to the public
  - ◆ Agency representatives feel hesitant to produce best management practices because of variability in river composition, size, flow, etc., and each site has to be reviewed on its own
  - ◆ New rules in buffer management may be in the offing, but could be as much as 2 years out
    - Rules set on a project-type basis in the interest of consolidation and ease of understanding

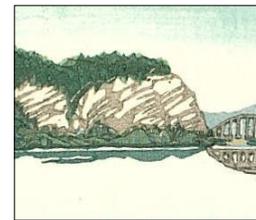


*a local subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions*

10 Water Street, Suite 225 Lebanon, NH 03766 ~ 603-727-9484 ~ [www.crjc.org](http://www.crjc.org)

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for the wider community

- ◆ Probably best to assess sites based on a 3 parameter approach focusing on height, soil type, and what's growing
- ❖ According to Tara, Trout Unlimited also has a plantings reference
- ❖ Later in the meeting, Carl mentioned that there was a useful newspiece in the Sept./Oct. 2014 NH DES newsletter addressing some of these concerns that may be relevant/useful
- ❖ Jim believe we should request that information be put up on the CRJC website to address this subject (\*\* request was then made to *keep this as an open agenda item*)

## Local River Management Advisory Committee 2013-2014 Biennial Report

- ❖ Jim and Ellie to compile data for this based on meeting minutes from the past year

**Membership Recruitment:** The Subcommittee still has vacancies for the towns of Lebanon, Bradford, Fairlee, Norwich and Hartford. Jim wants to send another recruitment letter out to member towns in a bid to get more volunteer members.

## Roundtable:

- ❖ Jim → There is talk, generally, of the Town working on plantings and bank stabilization projects along the river, coupled with other measures to improve/slow down water. With respect to Wilson's Landing, the Hanover Planning Commission is negotiating with DES to create some new aquatic resources by means of a culvert and removal of a dock, and reconfiguration of parking lot areas to provide a grass picnic area on the south end of the property. The town's Conservation Commission Trails Committee is working on logistics to create a trail network that will extend from the Landing out to numerous other sites, including to an organic farm in Kendall, the Ledyard Canoe Club, Mink Brook, and Chambers Park.
- ❖ Carl → There isn't currently a great deal happening in Orford at present; however, an article in the Valley News talked about funding for river restoration projects. The article mentioned farms in Orford that will be impacted/worked with as part of the many projects, but was unclear as to which ones specifically stand to benefit. Carl believes that conserved land belonging to the town (the Richardson property that is leased to Landau farm) is slated for work on riparian buffer (invasive removal, planting of better plants). Another grant is likely to be for the Trinity Farm further down the estuary.
  - ◆ In other news, with respect to a recent permit application, it was determined that DES couldn't force an owner to do bank stabilization. A permit was approved with condition that helical piles need to extend 20 feet or more below the riverbed (among other things). Jim will send a letter on the issuance of permits because they should at least be disseminated to us, and we were not notified that the permit was in fact issued.
- ❖ Sue → Jon will be in touch with landowners near slumping roadway areas to discuss erosion following the spring thaw. South of the Parson's house there is a steep slump, but you can't tell where the landslide is

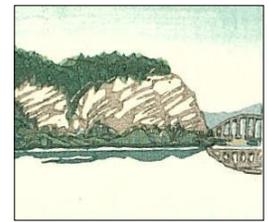


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likely to occur. It is very visible from the river, but not as much from River Road. All told, there are now six sites where the bank has started to noticeably erode. An engineer is considering dropping the road 8 ft. on River Road to have less impact on the remaining bank (2/10 of a mile south of E. Thetford Bridge). Both Charlie Hirschberg and Mike Willis are working on this. Further along towards the Hanover line, the town has run out of money for repairs. There is a culvert by Hidden Valley that is below the level of the river. Pathways suggested removing the culvert and putting in a box culvert, but, per Charlie and Mike, it would be an enormous task to remove something underwater. An alternative is being sought.

- ❖ Linda → Some Thetford residents recently participated in a “Poopy on the Pompy” discussion with other river-adjacent towns, in which residents were working to establish non-point source pollution that is not from a plainly obvious source at present.
- ❖ There was nothing to report from the town of Norwich

## Permit Review:

- ❖ Cicotte Properties, LLC discharge permit is satisfactory
- ❖ Discussion on erosion on the NH side of the Connecticut River and stabilization methods/costs (including a guide on stabilization practices) → see previous agenda notes

## Upcoming Events & Items

- ❖ CRJC Strategic Planning Retreat Update → this event took place earlier in March, and Tara spoke, in part, to some of the points made at the retreat of pertinence to the Subcommittee
  - ◆ Ellie will check with Pat Crocker to determine if there will be a joint meeting this year (an Upper Valley Region LAC meeting was held last year on March 19<sup>th</sup>)
    - This may be set for April, so the UV Subcommittee will aim for a May meeting unless a group meeting is held in the meantime

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm (motion from Carl, seconded by John).

The next meeting will be held on May 11, 2015, at 7 pm at the Thetford Library.



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