

CRJC Riverbend Subcommittee  
Draft Minutes  
April 26, 2012  
Littleton Community Center

Present:

Philip Blanchard, Monroe  
Bill Graves, Barnet  
Donald Hallee, Lunenburg  
Scott Labun, Newbury  
Stephanie Taylor, Newbury nominee  
Rick Walling, Bath  
Bob Ball, CRJC  
Rebecca Brown, CRJC  
Mary Sloat, CRJC  
Tara Bamford, North Country Council

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Chairman Rick Walling and introductions made.

#### 1. Housekeeping

There was no quorum so minutes were discussed but not voted upon. It was noted that the December minutes should be corrected to say that Bill Graves arrived before the end of the business meeting.

Election of officers was tabled due to lack of quorum.

The quorum problem and short DES deadlines for commenting on permit applications were discussed, and it was agreed by those present that there is still value in commenting on permit applications even if it is just the chair and the town representative.

Scott Labun reported that he is resigning as Newbury's representative and introduced Stephanie Taylor who will be nominated to replace him.

Rick reported that CRJC is going to start keeping tracking of LRS appointment dates and monitor 3 year terms to give people a chance to step down when no longer able or interested instead of not participating. It was agreed that CRJC and the LRS need to ensure that towns understand the importance and role of their representative, and that recruitment efforts need to be mindful of the need to have a wide array of interests.

When membership is rebuilt one of the next steps will be to identify the next chapter of the plan to update.

#### 2. Permit Reviews

Ampersand Gilman Hydro LP, Gilman – This is an application for renewal of a 5 year permit for noncontact cooling water. Don Hallee recused himself from the Subcommittee to present information on the project and answer questions. 58-80, 000 gallons of river water per day cycles through the plant to cool the bearings on generator #1. The permit requires that the temperature of the water when released can not be more than 1 degree F higher than the river, so the volumes are adjusted as

needed to cool down the cooling water. By consensus it was agreed that Rick should write to report that the members present had no concerns. Don Hallee rejoined the Subcommittee.

Rick presented information on a project in Bath on NH 135 that is within the protected shoreland but has no permit for the clearing that has taken place. Steep grades are also a concern. There is a driveway permit from the state for a single family home. The house site is above the floodplain but the driveway goes all the way to the water. It was agreed by the members present that Rick should fill out a DES complaint form.

### 3. Updates

Rick and Tara reported on the recent workshop DES held for local river advisory committees. At the workshop DES staff reported that they are working on a comment form for each program with the questions that will be most helpful to them when reviewing the applications. They will also be shortening the comment periods to address legislative concerns. Since the state permit is usually the last step in the process and changes at this point are costly, and DES scope is limited to the specific regulations involved, DES staff were emphasizing that local river advisory committee members review and comment on proposals as early as possible at the planning board and/or zoning board stage.

CRJC Commissioners updated the LRS members present on the CRJC strategic plan, CRJC funding (two years is in place from N.H. and Vermont, and the Connecticut River Partnership Act (which is still on the books but not funded); and emphasized the importance of the local river subcommittees as CRJC's "eyes and ears." Rebecca discussed the scorecard that CRJC would like the subcommittees to use to take stock of the many achievements and review remaining tasks.

Rick noted that funds are still needed to print the recreation plan; it is only available on-line. It was agreed that outreach to towns is needed on both the water quality plan and the recreation plan to promote implementation.

### 4. Other Business

It was reported that the draft 303d lists of impaired surface waters are available from NHDES and VANR for comment. Several waters in the area are listed as impaired, some due to local geology, e.g. low ph and high aluminum, and none were ranked as high priorities. No threats were listed in the Riverbend section of the Connecticut River.

Ticklenaked Pond in Newbury was discussed as a growing concern due to failing septic systems and phosphorous.

Rick and Tara reported that a complete draft of the first corridor management plan for the Ammonoosuc River will be discussed by that tributary's advisory committee in July.

5. Next meeting was set for July 26th at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tara Bamford, NCC