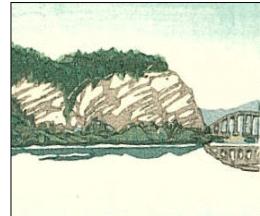


Upper Valley River Subcommittee

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



Meeting Minutes—July 16, 2012

Members Present: Marc White, Caryl Collier, Lynn Bohi, Karen Brown, John Mudge, Linda Matteson, Joan Monroe, Sue MacKenzie, and Rachel Ruppel, staff consultant

Minutes from the May 21 meeting were approved by motion by John and second by Sue, subject to the following revisions: in the final sentence, add the word “meeting” after the June 18 and the word “be” before “planned”. All in favor.

CRJC Commissioners’ Update: Joan recapped the annual meeting and announced that the new President is Rebecca Brown, who had edited Where the Great River Rises. Rachel passed out changes to the by-laws that pertain to Local River Subcommittees.

Rachel reported that CRJC is hosting a NH Shoreland Standards Focus Group on Wednesday August 15th at 6:30 at the CRJC office in Lebanon — subcommittee members, planning board/conservation commission members and Shoreland owners are welcome to attend. The purpose is to discuss recent changes to the NH Shoreland law, discuss the possibility to create separate standards for rivers and lakes, and make recommendations to the NH River Council’s Shoreland Advisory Committee.

Ron Rhodes from the Connecticut River Watershed Council came to talk about his work. He started with CRWC in Sept. 2011 part-time and went full-time this July. He covers the northern half of the Connecticut River watershed in NH and VT; David Deen is focusing on the southern part, specifically Vermont Yankee and the relicensing of Wilder, Bellows Fall and Vernon dams in 2018. Ron’s main focus right now is to identify projects that protect riparian areas and river flows in the CT River watershed between the Waits River and Wells River, using funding from the 15 Mile Falls Mitigation and Enhancement Fund. He’s looking at perched culverts, slumping banks, small dam removals, etc.— he will identify projects this year and seek funding for implementation for next year. Marc White recommended that Subcommittee members alert their Conservation Commissions and Road Agents to Ron’s project. Joan asked about the wildlife impact from Hurricane Irene; Ron replied that fish populations seems to be down 50% and that the channelization following the storm is actually more harmful to fish than the flooding. Insect populations were also likely affected, but it is hard to quantify the effect.

Rachel asked the Subcommittee to continue discussion on the Maxfield recreation area; at the last meeting, Joan had brought up the possible impact of lighting on wetland wildlife, but the discharge permit did not include any information about whether there would be lighting. Lynn reported that the project is to be phased and she didn’t believe that any buildings had yet been proposed. Lynn offered to carry this concern



a local subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions

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back to the Town of Hartford's parks department.

The Subcommittee also discussed the Lyme River Road project, which is currently under construction. The Subcommittee reviewed a discharge permit related to subdivision stormwater management in Norwich, but chose to issue no formal comment.

Marc circulated a draft letter for real estate agency owners about the NH Shoreland laws. The Subcommittee discussed changes and asked Rachel to email out a final draft when ready.

Joan reported that she is involved in a grassroots effort to manage invasive species in Lebanon, and shared information about wild parsnip, which is just starting to migrate into New Hampshire from Vermont.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 17, 2012.

Respectfully submitted, Rachel Ruppel, Staff Consultant