

**Connecticut River Joint Commissions  
Wantastiquet Local River Subcommittee**

October 25, 2012  
Draft Minutes

**In Attendance**

Members: Interim Chair, Elizabeth McLoughlin, Brattleboro, VT  
Richard Schmidt, Westmoreland, NH  
Elaine Levlocke, Chesterfield, NH  
Elizabeth McLoughlin, Brattleboro, VT  
Dan Marx, East Dummerston, VT  
Peter Barrett, Westminster, VT  
Michael Fairchild, Brattleboro, VT  
Don Farquharson, Westmoreland, NH  
Stephen Skibniowsky, Vernon, VT  
Jane Worley, Walpole, VT

Commissioners: Donna Drouin, Walpole, NH  
Beverly Major, Westminster West, VT

Guests/Public: Marie L. Caduto, Vermont DEC  
Lynn DeWald, Walpole, NH  
Dinah Reed, WRC Staff

**Meeting Summary**

The meeting was convened by Interim Chair Elizabeth McLoughlin at approximately 6:30 p.m.

- Review of Minutes – The draft minutes of the August 2012 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.
- FERC, Dam Re-licensing –
  - Elizabeth McLoughlin explained the role of the Wantastiquet LRS during the FERC re-licensing process. The LRS is to form a FERC Working Group that will stay abreast of FERC documents and the re-licensing process, and then report back to the LRS at each meeting to promote ongoing discussion and comments that will be provided to the CRJC / CRWC.
  - Volunteers for the LRS FERC Working Group:
    - Don Farquharson
    - Michael Fairchild
    - Elizabeth McLoughlin
    - Jane Worley
    - Dinah Reed
    - Anyone else who might like to volunteer for this committee is free to do so at any time.
  - Dam Site Visit Observations:
    - Steve Skibniowsky reported that he felt the Bellows Falls dam infrastructure was old/rough by comparison to the Vernon dam. But, that the fish ladder at the Bellows Falls dam

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looked well cared for. Also, at the Bellows Falls site visit, the re-licensing process was explained well by TransCanada and very informative, compared to FirstLight's explanation being more reticent and covert.

- Marie Caduto reported that from her "watershed perspective", the bypass reach (original path) of the Connecticut River at the Bellows Fall dam is sometimes really dry, which is a big issue.

- Wantastiquet LRS portion of the Recreation Plan
  - Richard Schmidt, Michael Fairchild and Dinah Reed met to do a preliminary review and have a discussion about the Rec Plan. Review of the plan showed since the plan is now 4 years old there are many sections that need editing because information is either outdated or missing. We plan to meet again before the end of the year to make revisions and write a 2 page update that will be brought to the LRS for their comments.
  - Other comments made by the LRS about the plan:
    - There is no mention in the plan about watching of Hawks on Putney Mountain.
    - No mention of Windmill Hill Pinnacle Trail
    - No mention of rail-trail opportunity from Brattleboro to Hinsdale
- Review of Permits
  - GSP Coatings – Pretreatment Discharge Permit No. 3-1490: Metal Finishing Discharge
    - Richard Schmidt felt the document was not very clear and too loosely written in places. He offered to craft a comment letter on behalf of the committee, with help from Dan Marx.
  - American Shad Rule Number Fis. 403.7 and Fis 408.12
    - Lynn DeWald offered to write a comment letter on this new rule, on behalf of the LRS.
  - Burtco, Inc. Permit No. 6874-9015
    - Question was asked, "What volume of "storm" are they able to infiltrate?" Dinah Reed will call the regional stormwater office to get more information.
- Recruitment/Appointments of new members
  - Elaine Levlocke said she would look into it for Chesterfield and Hinsdale.
  - Steve Skibniowsky said he would look into it for Vernon.
  - Dinah Reed said she would look into it for Putney and Dummerston.
- **Next Meeting** – December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm, in the upstairs (6<sup>th</sup> floor) Conference Room at WRC building
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dinah Reed, WRC Staff to the Wantastiquet LRS