

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

January 18, 2012

Draft Minutes

In Attendance

Members: Richard Schmidt, Westmoreland Conservation Commission
Mary Lou Montgomery, Walpole Conservation Commission
Gino Palmeri, Town of Putney

Commissioners: Chris Company, Commissioner/President CRJC
Bob Harcke, Commissioner, Westmoreland

Guests/Public: Marie L. Caduto, Vermont DEC

Meeting Summary

The meeting was convened by Commissioner Chris Company at approximately 6 p.m.

- Review of Minutes – The draft minutes of the December 7, 2011 meeting were reviewed but were not voted upon due to the absence of a quorum.
- Officer Elections – Officer elections could not be held due to the absence of a quorum. Chris noted that he could continue to run the meetings, but that a slate of officers elected among the members of the Local River Subcommittee should be elected as soon as possible.
- Update on the CRJC Strategic Planning Discussion – Chris and Bob Harcke provided a summary of the CRJC strategic planning discussion that took place during the CRJC meeting held January 17th. They explained that there is clear recognition of the importance of the local river subcommittees (LRS), and that it's at the LRS level where the real work for change will happen. Because the CRJC has relatively reliable but diminished funding, it will necessarily need to operate differently than it has in the past. The first step is establishing a clear definition of the role of the LRS. A summary of LRS roles discussed during the CRJC strategic planning session was provided, as were proposed next steps. That information is below.

Proposed Local River Subcommittee Roles

- 1) Regulatory review/ permit review. Statutory responsibility in NH.
- 2) Education and outreach to the general public, town officials.
- 3) Advocate for implementation of the River Management Plan, especially by towns, using both regulatory and non-regulatory means.
- 4) Document progress towards implementation of the Plan (i.e. keeping a scorecard of progress).

Next Steps - Strategic Planning

- 1) Review the roles of the LRS* with the LRS members.
- 2) Work with the LRS on a progress scorecard.
- 3) Ask the LRS for input on the FY13 workplan.

- 4) Ask the LRS about the idea of a North and South regional convening. Opportunity for the LRS to learn from one another

Those in attendance suggested the proposed roles were on track, but that two additional roles should be added:

- Eyes and ears on the ground that feed information back up to the CRJC.
- Inform CRJC plan updates.

There was also agreement that the principal focus of the LRS should be the main stem of the Connecticut River, and that the aspects of the River Management Plan that are of greatest priority should be identified.

- Membership and Scheduling Future Meetings – It has been difficult to achieve a quorum of LRS members. A review of the subcommittee’s membership indicated that since being reconvened in April, 2011, most members have participated in at least one meeting. A new appointment for Hinsdale is needed, and Chris said he would follow up with those members who have not attended since April (Stuart Adams and Hazel Hunter). It was acknowledged that participation by Watershed Coordinators was desirable, and that a request for the same should be made to Vermont DEC.
- Review of Permits – Only one permit had been received; a draft discharge permit for Westminster Business Park Partners, LLC. Those in attendance did not feel the submission of comments were necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.