



**Connecticut River Joint Commissions
Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 12, 2016
2:30 – 4:00 PM**

1. Approve Minutes of May 16, 2016. Comm.
Rasmussen moved, and Comm. McClammer seconded. Commrs. Lembke and Deen who were not present or members of the EC abstained. Vote: Carried.
2. May Financials – Comm. Lembke moved to accept the financials as presented; Comm. Deen seconded. Vote: Unanimous
3. Auditors Engagement Letter. The previous year’s auditor does not need to be replaced after ending their governmental portfolio because the firm is continuing to do non-profit accounting. The price for the review remains the same and this will be the auditor’s third year working with CRJC. Best practice for re-bidding goods and services is generally five years. Following discussion the Executive Committee agreed to proceed and President Walling authorized the auditor engagement for FY 2017.
4. Comments NHDES LAC Rule Changes Proposed
The rule changes that were of greatest concern for comment were removed from the proposal just prior to this meeting. Discussion followed of LAC rules of procedure in general. The Committee asked to have someone come up from Concord to talk about LAC notifications and explain the process for the Commissions at a future meeting.
5. Draft Letter on Northern Pass Transmission Project
The Committee discussed adoption of the recommendations of the Upper Valley LAC and/or Headwaters LAC which has been very active on this topic. The Army Corps has an application pending that states the specific adverse effect will not be substantial on the 122 acres total. Aquatic resources are reviewed but not aesthetic issues. There are no final plans for the project. Access roads, staging areas, and total impact are not final in the plans offered for comment. Because of this it was suggested that CRJC take the position that the Corps defer receiving comments until final plans are complete. The CRJC believes the application is incomplete and that they should postpone the public comment period for 45 days

so a full application can be submitted and reviewed. Comm. Deen moved and Comm. Lembke seconded a motion to approve that the CRJC President write a letter saying the permit is incomplete at this and requesting a 45 day postponement.

Vote: Unanimous.

6. FERC Coordination with the Governors – Comm. Walling stated that in an email from Governor Hassan, the Grafton County Conservation District and the NH AG Commissioner have been briefed on the discussions that were held with the Governor in June and have been asked to see what they can do to get involved in the process. CRJC should draft a clear statement of what it would like to see in a final agreement. Sullivan and Cheshire Counties had the same request so they have contacted Comm. Deen at CRWC. The CRWC will continue to facilitate knowledge about the M & E fund. Comm. Deen will invite the head of the dam purchase committee, in Vermont, to come down to see the area and discuss the proposal. CRJC and CRWS will continue to working cooperatively on this.

A letter to Vermont Representative Welch's VT Director, George Twigg, who is coordinating the project among the two state legislative delegations, had been drafted by Comms. Walling and Deen. Discussion followed about the contents of the letter. This letter was requested by a motion made at the CRJC Annual Meeting. The letter will be sent as read.

The Trans-Canada erosion studies are due August 1 and the comments will be due by the end of September. The archaeological studies have been compiled and the information will show the data but not the maps. Basically the same information is available for an EIS. Andrea Dolan is trying to set up a meeting with the consultant. Comm. Rasmussen will send a doodle poll link to all CRJC members for scheduling the first meeting with the consultant on the peer review study. The meeting is likely to be at the Windham RPC in Brattleboro.

The previous meeting explained the TNC model of the effects of the dams. The TNC model looks at 70 dams in the watershed. They have the ability to look at more sophisticated scenarios about impacts of the dams by river flows on aquatic species and shorelines than the ones in use by TransCanada.

7. CRJC Commissioner Appointments

Since the Local River Subcommittees are often a good place to find individuals committed to the watershed, the Committee will ask for a short list of member recommendations. Meeting laws need more people to fill positions on the Commission.

8. Planning Committee Education Program Ideas

The draft proposal would require a search for funding for this proposal. Silvio Conte is the only organization with the current river flow model. Before proceeding Comm. Lembke recommended that the CRJC find out what is already out there and flesh out the cost of the proposal as well. The Communications committee will talk to the development committee and come back with more detail for discussion at the next full commission meeting.

9. August Commission Agenda

Educational proposal

Membership Recruitment – Contribute Positively.

FERC Committee Report–

TNC Hydro Model Connecticut River Project – Katie Kennedy will be contacted by Comm. Rasmussen to see if she can attend and explain their model.

Erosion Meeting – Invite Commissioners who want to attend and engage them.

10. Other business

Comm. Walling read a support letter from CRJC for Association of Conservation Districts (NHACD) staffing.

Comm. Lembke suggested that at each meeting, the EC should look at previous Full Commission Meeting Minutes and review the action items agreed to by members to assure that the items are in process or have been completed.

Water Quality Planning Grants – Discussion followed on having CRJC apply for a NH Water Quality Planning Grant. A new Corridor Management Plan was offered as one idea. A letter of intent to apply is due by August 5.

Comm. Deen moved to establish a temporary subcommittee of Tara Bamford, Staff, and Comm. Walling as President to determine the highest priority project and to draft a letter of intent. Comm. Rasmussen seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

Comm. Lembke moved to adjourn at 4:10 p.m. seconded by Comm. Rasmussen.

Next Executive Committee meeting will be Monday, September 19, 2016, at 2:00 p.m..

DRAFT