



**Connecticut River Joint Commissions
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, February 29, 2016
2:30 – 4:00 PM**

Commissioners Present: Jason Rasmussen, James McClammer, Kurt Staudter

Others Present: David Deen, Sharon Francis, Andy Fisk (via conference call)

Partnering with CRWC on Meetings with State Governors: Andy Fisk (CRWC) joined the meeting via conference call. Objectives for these meetings include:

1. Get Governors support to bring political attention to the Connecticut River and the FERC relicensing process
2. Ask Governors for assistance to reach out to Trans Canada headquarters and work out issues
3. Make Governors aware of the erosion problems
4. Devote state staff time to help with the review process; identify point persons in each state
5. Help establish a Mitigation and Enhancement (M&E) Fund for the southern reach of the river
6. Awareness of the importance/authority for state-issued 401 water quality certifications; explain what is at stake in 401 certificate.
7. Attendance at a future event on the river
8. Incorporate climate change considerations into this 40-year permit

Other details regarding the proposed meetings include:

1. Most likely we will meet individually with each Governor
2. Schedule the meetings for April, in preparation for the April 30th comment deadline
3. Ask for 45 minutes to 1 hour of their time
4. 8-12 people to attend each meeting

Sharon Francis and/or Judith Spang will inquire as to who is the appropriate contact in

the NH Governor's office. Andy Fisk will contact the Governors offices to schedule these meetings.

There was discussion about trying to get support from the Congressional delegation. We will try to work through the two states first, recognizing the real power of the 401 process. We may need to get Congressional support at a later point in the process.

David Deen noted that CRWC has two Vermont Law School interns to identify the necessary process to appeal FERC decisions, if necessary.

There was agreement with Kurt Staudter's suggestion regarding the importance of:

1. Getting media attention on this issue
2. Gathering the key decision makers in the room for the meetings
3. Holding an event on the river
4. Getting the M&E Fund established

FERC Dam Relicensing Next Steps: Sharon Francis indicated that while the Connecticut River Management Plan has not been updated since the late 1990s, it is still very relevant. The plan contains specific language that is specifically targeted at FERC relicensing considerations.

The FERC Work Group will meet later this same day to discuss next steps in reviewing FERC documents and formulating a recommendation for the Executive Committee. Both Jim McClammer and Kurt Staudter expressed concern whether there is a conflict of interest in serving on both the Executive Committee and the FERC Work Group. Consensus was that this is not an issue.

Jason Rasmussen asked if the CRJC Executive Committee should provide funds to contribute toward the CRWC's RFP for consultant services as discussed at the previous CRJC full board meeting. The CRJC has a small amount of undesignated funds in the bank that can go toward an effort such as this. Jim McClammer asked if the resulting consultant services would be limited to the Wilder impoundment and in areas in Massachusetts. From CRJC's perspective, it is important to spend funds as it relates to addressing issues along the river corridor affected by this relicensing process.

Jim McClammer made a motion to contribute \$5,000 from the CRJC fund balance to support consultant services that relate to erosion issues along the Connecticut River per the CRWC's current RFP and to issue a check to CRWC for this purpose. Second by Kurt Staudter. Motion passed.

Kurt Staudter noted that the CRJC Development Subcommittee might help to create funding that will help toward additional costs related to this relicensing effort.

Kurt Staudter moved to adjourn at 4:00 PM.

Adopted March 21, 2016