



**Connecticut River Joint Commissions  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Monday, January 23, 2017  
2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Commissioners Attending: Jason Rasmussen, Mary Sloat, Chris Company, Steven Lembke and Jim McClammer.

Meeting convened at 2:00 p.m.

**Approval Minutes** – Comm. Lembke moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2016 Executive Committee meeting. Comm. Company seconded the motion. The staff ad hoc notes about the model by TNC should be eliminated from the minutes and the technical explanation of the river flow modeling will be added in their place for accuracy. Comm. Sloat and Company abstained as they had not been present at that meeting. Vote: Unanimous.

December 2016 Financials – Comm. Company moved and Comm. Lembke seconded a motion to accept the financials. Vote: Unanimous.

**Bluetooth Speaker** – Staff presented 4 options at a range of prices for a Bluetooth conference call speaker/microphone which can be used with a mobile phone for Commissions meetings. The options were reviewed and the Executive Committee authorized staff to purchase a speaker at a price up to \$175.00.

**Staffing for FY 2018** – The Committee discussed the staff for the upcoming fiscal year and the consensus was to continue the current arrangement for the upcoming fiscal year, as all continue to be happy with the arrangement. Pat Crocker and Tara Bamford are doing a good job and the likelihood is that the current staffing will continue in the next fiscal year. EC requested a budget at the appropriate time for further discussion.

**Review of December Joint Commissions Meeting Action Items**

Comm. Company discussed the concept that CRJC become a convener between two state's DES and ANR to discuss the issues and policies related to the river. For example, CRJC might bring the State Commissioners together to discuss the issues related to the river. The departments that might be included in such a convening in addition to Natural Resources could include Agriculture, Tourism, and Energy. Comm. McClammer moved that CRJC convene high level meetings with Commissioners of both states at CRJC meetings to keep Commissioners and the public informed on watershed related issues and have a specific focus on issues that are critical to the implementation of the Connecticut River Management plan, Comm. Company seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

Comm. McClammer made note of the DES effort to identify dams that would be appropriate for removal and the planned meetings in the Upper Valley. He inquired about various organizations that might want to help identify dams.

**WOW Project with Conte** - Comm. Lembke reported on status of work with the Conte Watershed on Wheels (WOW) locations. Those identified are Herrick's Cove Festival, North Country Moose Festival and Montshire. He is attempting to confirm these and will work with Tara Bamford on lining up LRS member

volunteers.

### **FERC Working Group**

Comm. McClammer reported on the relicensing process and TransCanada's preliminary licensing proposal (PLP). A Draft Letter by CRJC on the PLP was circulated in late December 2016. The "No action" alternative proposed in the PLP is unacceptable. Comm. McClammer agreed to draft the letter for final approval by the Executive Committee. The letter will include links to existing plans and previous CRJC correspondence with FERC. Comm. Sloat moved and Comm. Lembke moved to have Comm. McClammer draft a letter on the PLP for the Executive Committee. Staff will complete the letter for signature by the President and Vice President. Vote: Unanimous. It was noted that a follow-up letter to new Vermont and New Hampshire Governors, with references to a mitigation and enhancement fund, is necessary.

**CRJC Commissioners Regarding Appointments and Recruiting** – Comm. Lembke will work with staff on this to finalize appointments. Staff will contact new appointment secretaries in both states. Comm. Lembke will review categories consistent with the statues and will review open meeting laws to begin to make it possible for more commissioners to participate by phone without travel time and expense.

### **Other Business**

The topic of the Connecticut River Byway Council was discussed informally in reference to a recent inquiry by Mr. Bernie Folta. Commissioners agreed to have Comm. Lembke touch base with Mr. Folta about the Byway Council and informally discuss what role CRJC might play in the future. Comm. Lembke moved and Comm. McClammer seconded a motion to have staff respond to an invitation for a CRJC representative to participate in a Connecticut conference on floodplains, at which Comm. Chris Company will participate. Comm. Company abstained. Vote: Unanimous.

### **February Meeting Agenda**

- The "Waters of the US Rule" was mentioned as a topic of interest. Comm. McClammer offered to do research on the status of the rumored federal repeal, roll back or suspension of the rule to determine what a roll-back would mean. CRJC would like to have clarity of the status and potential impact to the state's clean water rules.
- Copy of PLP Comment Letters
- Conte and Membership
- Turners Falls Licensing Process – Windham Regional Commission will forward to members.

**Adjourn** – Comm. Lembke moved to adjourn and Comm. Company seconded at 4:15 p.m.

*Adopted: March 20, 2014*