



**Connecticut River Joint Commissions
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday September 19, 2016
2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Present: Rick Walling, Mary Sloat, Jason Rasmussen, Jim McClammer, Steve Lembke, David Deen. Guest: John Bruno. Staff Pat Crocker, Jonathan Edwards.

Excused: Chris Company, Dick Sanders.

1. President Walling called the meeting to order. Introductions followed. Comm. McClammer moved and Comm. Deen seconded a motion to approve meeting minutes with a correction to the list of members present and corrections to the numbers on item 5 clarifying the ACOE project.
2. July Financials Comm. Lembke moved and Comm. Rasmussen seconded a motion to accept the July financials. Vote: Unanimous
3. Review of last full Commission Minutes – actions taken.
 - Conte partnership follow-up. Steve Lembke will draft the letter to Friends of Conte and the FWS about the WOW schedule so that the Commissioners can help. He will send the draft to Rick Walling for review/approval. The letter will be cc'd to Kim Lutz and Andy Fisk. It will be passed through staff for comments by Executive Committee. He will also discuss with Tara Bamford to make sure she is aware and can contribute if she wishes.
 - Town of Bath contributions. Request Letter due before January. Pat will draft request for Rick Walling Signature.
 - Northern pass letter had been sent; copy attached.
 - Discussion followed on how to proceed with compiling suggestions for Katie Kennedy for the TNC modeling project. Not all suggestions are expected to be used, but the ideas will be valuable.
4. FERC Relicensing report. On August 17, Jim McClammer, Jennifer Griffin, David Deen

& John Bruno, along with others attended the meeting with the consulting engineer, Laura Wildman of Princeton Hydro (PH), at the Windham Regional Planning Commission. On August 25th, Jim McClammer, Jennifer Griffin, David Deen, John Bruno and many others attended the TransCanada Study Report Meeting in White River Junction. The erosion study report by Dr. John Field was at the end. Now the task is to respond to the reports by September 29. Jim McClammer sent a first draft out for comments.

Discussion followed on the PH consultant report/ peer review. It was received by CRWC on Friday, September 16. The draft needs some editing and it is expected to be circulated soon. Discussion followed on next steps once the CRJC receives the peer review memo. Comments must be received by September 29. The Army Corps of Engineers will be in Lyme, NH on September 20 to look at their road.

5. Follow up discussion on Letter to Katie Kennedy on the TNC Hydro Modeling and the regional objectives that might be considered in the analysis. Comm. Deen remarked on the magnitude of the task to analyze all the data and bring all the various interests together to be prioritized. A third-party, neutral facilitator might help to bring stakeholders together. TransCanada had paid for a third-party, impartial facilitator in the past. Having a group of RPCs convene stakeholders was discussed.

The CRJC appreciates the offer of the CRWC to draft a letter to convene a meeting among Trans Canada and stakeholders. The first item to be completed is development of a list of public interests. Ideas for objectives are erosion, loss of habitat, private property, siltation/sediment accumulation; Mercury concentration in sediment due to fluctuating water levels; impacts on in-stream habitat; effects of flow regimes; transportation of toxins in sediment; instituting a ramping rate for dams to reduce soil piping in the riverbanks, and reduce negative impacts to habitat and wildlife; moderated ramping rates, conservation plans, agricultural soils buffers, mercury; climate change; flood storage; instream flow. Maybe the model can be used to mediate the interests of the various interest groups. Comm.

Comm. Walling suggested that he will discuss the list with Comm. Bamford and Comm. Rasmussen of the priority interests to consider for the model.

6. Other funding opportunities. Vermont Eco-system Restoration Program (ERP) fund might be reviewed once it is announced. The administrators are looking for coordinated proposals. The agency has put some of the water protection funds into the ERP providing more flexibility because it is a non capital fund source.
7. Procurement relative to the proposed NH 604 B grant was discussed, but this is a non issue because NH did not fund the project proposed.
8. Staff will share list and determine the number of the openings with Executive Committee, Steve Lembke will take the lead. Rick Hopkins is retiring. Deen spoke to Peter LaFlamme who is the head of the division and some suggestions have come up but are yet to be confirmed. Staff will write Rick Hopkins a letter and thank him for his service and ask him if he would like to be appointed as a commissioner- at-large.
9. October Joint Commissions Agenda -
 - Conte Partnership and Educational Model;
 - TNC list of objectives;
 - Report on FERC Comments on Reports;
 - Commission Membership.
 - Review of last full meeting minutes; make this a permanent item on the meeting agendas.
10. Other Business:
 - Standing Committee on NH Public Waters Access Board, cross fertilization of the departments that are involved in NH. Tom Quarles is the head of this group. This might be a good group to follow up on the no-wake issues; also this might be the group to discuss the permitting process and the LACS involvement.
 - Jonathan Edwards discussed the storage crisis and many duplicates and aged materials. Deen suggested that we call Sharon Francis to have a look at the things and assist in the decision -making

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Adopted November 21, 2016