



Connecticut River Joint Commissions Meeting  
Full Commissions Meeting Minutes  
December 14, 2015  
10 Water Street, Lebanon, NH

**Commissioners Present:** Jennifer Griffin, Mary Sloat, Tara Bamford, Steven Lembke, Elaine Levlocke, Brendan Prusik, Chris Thayer, Jason Rasmussen, Kurt Staudter, Jim Doig.

**Commissioners Absent:** Peter Blodgett, Ken Niemczyk, Jim McClammer, Dick Sanders, Rebecca Brown, Robert Harcke, Rick Walling, Peter Gregory, Alison Low, Samuel Swope, Michaela Stickney, Chris Company, David Deen, Marion Allen, and Rick Walling.

**Others Present:** Pat Crocker, Staff.

#### **Minutes of October 19, 2015**

Comm. Levlocke moved and Jim Doig seconded a motion to accept the Minutes. Comm. Prusik proposed to clarify that CRJC take a position to limit the expansion of the Conte Refuge and that Comm. Lembke noted he would oppose a motion to limit the expansion without more information. Comm. Levlocke moved and Comm. Doig moved to accept as corrected. **Vote: Unanimous**

#### **Financials–October**

Comm. Lembke moved and Comm. Levlocke seconded motion to accept the financials for the month ending October 31, 2015. **Vote: Unanimous**

#### **Summary of Reports from the LRS**

Comm. Bamford summarized the activities of the local river subcommittees. (See report attached.) Headwaters held extra meetings to consider the Northern Pass application. Riverbend made comments to DES about the potential of pipeline changes to transport tar-sands oil. The Wantastiquet report was presented by Comm. Levlocke. They reviewed the Rodrigues property matter at the meeting and the subcommittee felt it had no jurisdiction about the matters and that the matter had been through all the state and local processes.

Restrictions on snowmobiling were concerns of two subcommittees relative to the Northern Pass. There were also concerns about the pipeline reversal issue.

Comm. Prusik noted that 4 subcommittees commented by expressing concern about the effects of Conte expansion on silviculture in the region.

### **Subcommittees**

**Communications:** They will be looking to see whether the information on various venues and materials was up-to-date and accurate. Some of the brochures need to be updated.

**Planning** provided some material on the Instream Flow. Comm. Doig expressed his view that the first pilot review was very impressive and he wondered whether Vermont similarly was monitoring the instream flow. Staff will look into that on the Vermont site.

FERC Subcommittee – Some of the original members’ terms have expired. An inquiry will be made of the remaining members to determine if they are still interested. Executive Committee or full Commission should review any working group recommendations before making a policy statement. The issue is a timing one because of the 30 day review period. When the FERC subcommittee meets they would send the EC meeting information and recommendations. FERC Committee should be reactivated and it will be a test to see how the committee will operate.

The study period is concluding and the first reports are coming out after the first of year and comments will be due March 1 on or about. Reports on Recreation, Erosion, Whitewater Rafting, and Aesthetics are expected.

**Collaboration with CRWC on State Meetings** – Commissioners reviewed a letter from Comm. Deen proposing that the Watershed Council and CRJC coordinate and meet with the governors or their staff on FERC related issues.

Comm. Bamford supports the notion of partnership on the FERC relicensing, but suggests that CRJC have a conversation with CRWC about their positions. CRJC will ask the FERC subcommittee to look into their positions and identify points of agreement and potential disagreement. Comm. Lembke moved and Comm. Staudter seconded a motion to endorse joint meetings with CRWC. Comm. Doig suggested that you have to be in a much more specific agenda before meeting. Comm. Lembke felt it would be advantageous for the two organizations requesting a meeting with the governor’s office to focus on the FERC licensing and discussion of a mitigation and enhancement fund for southern part of the

river. Comm. Rasmussen will contact CRWC. **Vote: Motion Carried.** Comms. Doig and Griffin abstained.

### **Speed and Bank Erosion**

Comm. Doig reported that boats charge up the river in narrow areas at high speeds. There is a sign at Newbury, but there ought to be signs at motor boat launch sites along with the invasive species signs. Inquiries about what signs currently exist will be sent to local subcommittees

A letter from the President of CRJC to help identify the locations and staff will help identify the specific areas where this is a concern. The suggestion is to have the LRS look at this in early spring. Inventory needs to be taken and then bring that awareness to the State Agencies. Enforcement is a NH issue as the state controls the river. It was noted that regulatory signs disappear all the time. The restrictions are already in law; the issue is there is a lack of signage and enforcement.

Step one is the inventory by the LRS and if there is no sign to recommend the type of sign that would be appropriate, review the condition of the boat launches, and make any other recommendations. Timing of the inventories will be an issue based upon whether there is heavy snow. The consensus was to do this, and have the executive committee set a schedule for meetings several months in advance for rest of year but try to maintain the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday schedule. Staff will conduct a poll for the best Monday in February except for the 15<sup>th</sup> and the Tuesday after to determine availability of Commissioners.

The auditor's financial report will be on the next agenda. Commissioners will review the CRJC statutory authority for February. Comm. Doig suggested Comm. Prusik layout what actions CRJC should be taking. Comm. Prusik and Thayer will look at what they think the CRJC should be doing to carry out its mission. Comm. Lembke suggested that Comm. Prusik and Thayer join the planning committee to present their ideas within the Committee.

Comm. Levlocke moved to adjourn seconded by Comm. Doig.

Adopted: February 16, 2016

