



**Connecticut River Joint Commissions
Executive Committee Meeting –
Thursday, October 23, 2014
10 Water Street, Suite 225, Lebanon, NH 03766**

Present

Rick Walling, Tara Bamford, Jim McClammer, Mary Sloat, Richard Sanders, Chris Company, Jason Rasmussen, Nate Miller, and Patricia Crocker

Convene

President Walling called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM.

Approval of Minutes of September 10, 2014. Comm. Bamford moved and Comm. McClammer seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Unanimous.

Formulating Questions About the CRWC Proposal

Nate Miller spoke briefly with the committee and explained that the UVLSRPC is happy to continue to work with CRJC and facilitate their process moving forward, but that it would not be possible to extend the current agreement and all the subcontracting it will entail for less than 6 months. The consensus among the members was that this was a reasonable request.

The Executive Committee will prepare a communication with the CRWC based on the following outline and request a response within one week of the date they are sent to CRWC.

Staffing: The proposal lacked specific staff responsibilities for various functions.

- What are the names of the staff and contractors referred to in the proposal and what are their qualifications to work with CRJC?
- If the RPC's were to continue as subcontractors to facilitate the local river subcommittees how will that be possible at the proposed rate of \$40 per hour? (Billing rates for RPC's typically range between \$60 and \$75 per hour).
- Phil Girton is referred to as the person who will provide administrative support, but he is not listed in the budget.
- What is Mr. Girton's experience dealing with NH contract administration?
- Grant Writing is referred to as a contractor activity? Whom do they have in mind to subcontract that activity to?

Meetings

- More than half the hours in the proposal are dedicated to the Local River Subcommittees, but lacks detail on how that time will be used?

- Most of the Local River subcommittees meeting quarterly; one subcommittee meets bi-monthly. The proposal references only 3 meetings for each of the subcommittees. Is CRWC proposing to change those schedules, or just not staff all the meetings?
- Electronic meetings are problematic in both VT and NH as physical quorums are required to be present to conduct business. Does the reference to telephone meetings mean that staff would participate by telephone or that meetings would be conducted by telephone?
- What location would CRWC propose for CRJC Commission meetings?
- What is CRWC's understanding of Vermont and New Hampshire Open Meetings statutes?
- The proposal suggests staffing meetings physically twice a year. The CRJC is charged with meeting monthly. Meetings have alternated between Full Commission and Executive Committee with the exception only of July and August 2014. How will those meetings be handled?

Communications

- CRJC is a NH non-profit corporation and must have a physical address in the State. What would CRJC's physical address, phone number, and area code be?

Budget/Other

- The proposal exceeds the available, historic funding. How would be addressed and what would be cut?
- Travel expenses are quoted at \$7,000 annually. Whose travel and how many miles will that cover?
- Based on advice from VT, the contract can only be signed for the initial 6 months. Is CRWC amenable to that restriction?

The Executive Committee will prepare a communication with the CRWC based on the preceding outline and request a response within one week of the date they are sent to CRWC.

Next Steps

The Executive Committee will meet again at the CRJC offices at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5, to complete a final written evaluation of the CRWC proposal and the responses to their questions.

The Executive Committee proposes to re-establish the regular meeting schedule beginning with the third Monday in December 2014. The proposed agenda will include discussion of the new VT Shoreland Protection Statute and the issue of the lower Connecticut River Reservoirs and the 120 miles of impoundments that the statute has been interpreted to exclude.

The second issue of interest is to have VT officials present the updated river corridors maps. Invitations to both States' River Management staff will be extended. Suggestions include: Susan Warren and Tre Martin from VT.

The Committee also discussed revisiting the work plan, project ideas, convening meetings to consider

major policy issues that affect the River, better communicating the work that CRJC is doing, roles of Commissioners, and long range planning. Key questions include: What is needed in the Watershed? What is the CRJC Role in the context of the current fiscal realities? What is the role of the Commissioners going forward?

NH River Management Statute Revisions

The Executive Committee will review the proposed changes to the NH law and send comments to Tara Bamford for compilation. The comments will be used to draft a letter on behalf of CRJC that will be reviewed at the November 5, 2014 meeting. Comments are due to the State of NH by November 14, 2014.

Comm. McClammer moved to adjourn at 11:45 a.m. Comm. Bamford seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

Adopted November 5, 2014