



# Minutes

## Connecticut River Joint Commissions

### Executive Committee Meeting

CRJC Office, Lebanon, NH

Monday August 20, 2012, 2:00 – 3:30 pm

#### Attendance:

Rebecca Brown, CRJC-NH, Chair  
Mary Sloat, CRJC – NH, Treasurer  
Robert Christie, CRJC-NH  
Brendan Whittaker, CRJC-VT  
Gayle Ottman, CRJC-VT  
David Deen, Westminister, VT  
Rachel Ruppel, Staff  
Patricia Crocker, Staff

Chair Brown convened the meeting at 2:00p.m.

Mary Sloat moved to approve the Minutes of the 7/16/2012 Executive Committee meeting, with Gayle Ottman seconding. Motion to Approve: Unanimous.

The July financials and contract status were reviewed. Final payment had been received from Vermont to close SFY12. The first quarterly payment for SFY 13 had also been received from Vermont. Accounts receivable were noted from the Littleton Bookstore. The Byway Sign project was nearly complete with only the St. Johnsbury section pending.

An application for Section 604b funding for culvert improvements was not successful, but funding may be available through FEMA and will be pursued. NH Senator Odell has been contacted regarding NH funding for SFY13. Secretary of the VT ANR Deb Markowitz along with key stake-holders will be contacted by Commissioners.

Mary Sloat moved to accept the financial statement as presented, seconded by Brendan Whittaker. Motion: Approved Unanimous.

Select consultant for FY12 financial review. Four firms responded to the request for quotes for various levels of financial review. Bids are still pending from one organization. Once the final estimate is received, the Executive Committee will move forward.

Monthly Work Plan Reviewed. Preparation of a new commissioner package is in process. The Executive Committee suggested inclusion of a hardcover copy of the River Atlas along with a copy of "Proud to Live Here". Notice of the books available for sale was suggested for the website and other electronic /print media noting that the Atlas is still available for sale on Amazon, but few hardcopies remain on hand.



The new format for the bi-weekly update in Constant Contact offers a feature to link these to a Facebook page. The consensus view was to move forward and set-up a CRJC Facebook Account linking the bi-weekly update.

The organization of the Joint Commissions meeting for September 17 was reviewed. Speakers Brendan Prusik and Bob Baker were available. The meeting will take place in Pittsburg, NH at the TransCanada lodge. Additional Information and complete agenda will be available soon and well advance of the meeting.

Update on distribution of FY12 annual report and CRJC Commissioners' town visits this fall. An Annual Report and attractive copy of the Strategic Plan will be prepared for the September 17 Meeting.

A goal for the coming year is to have Commissioners /Local River Subcommittee Members visit town boards of selectmen to say that CRJC is alive and well and report on the activities over the past year. Action plan and assignments for these visits will be considered further. A chart of the subcommittees and members with town would be helpful and staff will prepare that.

Update of new Commissioner/Subcommittee member recruitment. Seven new members have been appointed to local river subcommittees. Four vacant Commissioner seats remain in Vermont and 7 in New Hampshire. Brendan Prusik's appointment is pending to fill one of those. Three at large seats are open in NH representing Flood Control, Agriculture and Tourism. Appointment of Barry Larson of VT is pending. Mary Ruse was suggested as another possible nomination. Rachel Ruppel will call her.

A meeting with NHDES Commissioner Burack was very productive. Fifteen individuals attended the Shoreland Focus Group. The NH Shoreland Standards were in place, but enforcement adequacy was a concern. The group noted that the standards for rivers and lakes differ. Vermont did not currently have a Shoreland Protection statute, but David Deen advised that a legislative study committee was considering this subject.

In the interest of time, the update on Source to Sea Clean up on Fiddlehead Island – Sat. September 29, 2012 and the November CRJC meeting – Blueway designation and Salmon program was tabled until the next Executive Committee Meeting.

CRJC's involvement with FERC relicensing process was reviewed. David Deen briefed the committee on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission dam relicensing process that will take over 5 years and will for the first time have specific time frames at each junction. The deadlines will be very serious and Connecticut River Watershed Council has dedicated significant staff time to this project. Reading the various studies alone will take a great deal of time.

The most critical time for involvement will be between steps 1 and 3 where the studies will have a significant role in informing the process. The CRJC recreation and watershed plans should offer gap analyses to evaluate the impact of the dams on the river. Since CRJC has limited staff time, David Deen could provide some support and also suggested that CRJC may want to involve local river subcommittee members to provide advice and support.



There was no new business presented. Bob Christie moved to adjourn seconded by Brendan Whittaker at 3:30 p.m. Vote: Approve Unanimous.

The next Executive Committee Meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of October, October 15 at 2:00p.m., at the UVLSRPC in Lebanon.

DRAFT