



## Connecticut River Joint Commissions

*10 Water St., Lebanon, NH*

*Monday, June 19, 2017*

### *Meeting Minutes*

**Commissioners Present:** Chris Campany, VT; Steven Lembke, VT; Tara Bamford, VT; David Deen, VT; Mike Storage, VT; Bob Harcke, NH, Barbara Robinson, NH; Chris Yurek, NH; Jennifer Griffin, NH; Rick Walling, NH; Mary Sloat, NH; Jim McClammer. Staff: Pat Crocker, Steven Schneider, UVLSRPC; Guests: Kathy Urffer, Andy Fisk, CRC

**Commissioners Absent:** Ken Niemczyk, Alison Low, Marion Allen, NH; Jason Rasmussen, VT

**Convene & Introductions at 2:10 p.m.**

#### **Minutes**

Comm. David Deen moved and Comm. Lembke seconded the motion to accept minutes with correction noted. Comm. Deen added list absent. Note: correct location of event was Herrick's Cove not Hart's. Vote Unanimous

#### **Annual and Monthly Financial Statements**

Comm. Sloat made the motion to accept financial statement as of May 31, 2017, Comm. Deen seconded. Vote: Unanimous

#### **FY 2018 Budget**

Budget presented with minor modifications. Jim McClammer moved to approve the budget with the addition of the balance of the M&E fund \$3,948.31 at the end of May. (Balance will be adjusted after payment of June invoices was seconded by Mary Sloat. Vote Unanimous.

**Correspondence Follow up** – FERC letter was a follow up to comments by the Commissions in response to the study reports. Great River Hydro has responded to CRJC comments and other agencies are available online at

[https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/file\\_list.asp?accession\\_num=20170613-5116](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20170613-5116).

F&W has submitted comments and FERC has 30 days to make their determination after that Response.

**Local River Subcommittee Reports** – Comm. Bamford spoke about subcommittee activities.

Written report attached. If DES encouraged applicants to come to the subcommittees earlier this might be helpful. The edits of the letter related to Right to Know law but otherwise remained the same.

The Conte partnership is working well. Comm. Lembke described the equipment available for presentations include two tables, a pop up tent, and table-top display. CRJC helped staff the Conte Water on Wheels van at the Herrick's Cove Festival. They will be in Hartland on July 4 in connection with the Conservation District and at the Montshire Museum summer camp on August 14, Aquatic adventures. In the fall a paddle the border event starts at Riverbend and ends in the Upper Valley.

**LAC Member Approvals** –Tom Herman and Stefan Golick by the town of Rockingham. Comm. Deen moved, Comm. McClammer seconded the motion to approve the appointments. Vote: Unanimous.

**Member Recruitment** – Comm. Lembke spoke about the Connecticut River Watershed Farmer's Alliance is a group that he is suggesting as a resource for membership on CRJC along with Janet Redmond, Hanover Chamber of Commerce who is a tourism entrepreneur. If anyone has any names please forward these to Comm. Lembke. Comm. Deen spoke with Gov Scott Appointments Secretary/Chief of Staff, but we have not had a response. Staff will touch base with Kari with Dolan at VT ANR and Tracie Sales at DES. Letters will be drafted for review at the Executive Committee meeting on July 17.

**Recreation Press Conference** – Andy Fisk, Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) thanked the Commissioners for working together on several projects recently and offered an invitation to the CRJC and local subcommittees to participate in several CRC activities over the summer. There will be two types of activities – Quest 65 event all smartphone based scavenger hunt. June 15 to October and collect points and eligible for prizes. Jump in Journey Source to Sea will highlight work of the CRC for the Connecticut River and the Watershed. This was previously done in 1959 and this will be an encore of that journey to highlight the successes and recognize remaining problems.

Starting at 4<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Lake beginning July 15, events will occur each day through July 31. They would like to work with subcommittees and the Joint Commissions. There will be an event on July 22 from Cornish to Claremont. Harpoon Brewery and Snap Dragon Inn are sponsors and there will be a reception at the Windsor Welcome Station. The hope is to highlight where organizations see recreational infrastructure going? Fisk would like to have

CRJC, RPCs, and the Subcommittees attend this meeting on Saturday afternoon July 22. How that story gets lifted into a larger conversation, in chronicling the journey, and a longer form story about the Connecticut River will be part of the effort.

Other events include a July 21 paddle on the river, and then followed with a reception at the home of the Smith's in Lyme with Congressional Representatives Peter Welch and Annie Kuster in connection with that even.

CRJC's recreation plan is a living document. The Upper Valley and Mt. Ascutney are very focused on the erosion issues. They are upset about the emphasis on recreation projects.

Comm. Sloat noted that people who do engage in recreation can see the problems of the erosion that need to be addressed. Comm. Lembke stated that the discussion is not an either or between erosion and recreation. Comm. Deen stated the bottom line issue is not erosion but the overall health of the river. Comm. McClammer asked that CRJC might solicit ideas from the local river subcommittees for things to be addressed. The event will highlight the common issues of interests of the organizations.

July 24<sup>th</sup> in Brattleboro will be David Deen's retirement part. Kathy Urffer (kurffer@ctriver.org) will be the new river steward replacing Deen. Andy Fisk will be in contact with staff with info and Kathy will send her background and contact info to staff.

Comm. McClammer would like to continue the discussion about how to prioritize and support recreation objectives.

**State Caucus** – The meeting adjourned for state caucuses to elect officers for FY 2018. The results of the elections are as follows:

CRVRC: Jim McClammer Chair, Rick Walling Vice Chair; Chris Yurek Treasurer/Secy, Jennifer Griffin at Large.

CRWAC: Jason Rasmussen Chair, Steve Lembke Vice Chair, Chris Campany Secy Treas, David Deen at Large.

The CRJC meeting reconvened to elect officers. Comm. Bamford moved the slate above. The results of that election are: President Jason Rasmussen, Vice President James McClammer, Secretary Steven Lembke, Treasurer Chris Yurek. Vote: Unanimous.

### **Other Business/Announcements**

Friends of Conte CRJC Representative. Meetings are in Hadley Mass. Company asked whether any others would like to be the “official” representative of CRJC. Comm. Lembke recommended that Comm. Company continue in that role, but he might want to talk about a future participation.

Comm. McClammer moved that Comm. Company be CRJC’s representative to Conte and Comm. Lembke be an alternate. Deen seconded. All in favor. Have this as a standing agenda item when there is something to report.

Comm. Deen has tried contacting the Sec of ANR and Sec Civil and Military Affairs, and Gov Scott to discuss making reappointments to CRJC a priority.

Consensus on the letter drafting Chairs of two state commissions will draft letters to state governors parlyzed on keeping and recruiting members. Staff will draft a letter to work. Urging action on nominating commissioners to state committees and the focus on the river. Unique nature of cross border development review as the mission of the commissions should be noted. Executive Committee will meet and review letters on Monday, July 17.

Comm. Deen moved Sloat seconded a motion to have Comm. McClammer be authorized to speak as an individual member of CRJC on the reconstruction of Route 12A between Charlestown and Walpole. Discussion followed that the subcommittee should be the resource to comment on large projects. Comm. McClammer reminded members that the CRJC delegated responsibility to comment upon permit applications to the LRSs but retained authority to comment on larger projects (see Section G of *Guidelines for the Local River Subcommittee Permit Review Process*, copy attached). Joint Commissions should be in the room within the limits of an individual member. Vote: Unanimous.

CRJC Commissioners expressed their gratitude to outgoing Commissioner Mary Sloat for her many years of service as treasurer and her commitment to protecting the river.

**Agenda – August Meeting** – Commissioners of VT ANR and NH DES will be invited to attend.

**Adjourn** – Comm. Deen moved, Comm. McClammer seconded a motion to adjourn at 4:12 p.m.