



**Connecticut River Joint Commissions**  
***CRJC Office, 10 Water St., Lebanon, NH***  
***Tuesday, February 16, 2016 2:00 – 4:00 PM***  
***Meeting Minutes***

***Commissioners Present:*** Rick Hopkins, Jason Rasmussen, Jennifer Griffin, Steven Lembke, Dick Sanders, Jim McClammer, Kurt Staudter, Rick Walling, Chris Thayer, Chris Campany, Brendan Prusik, Mary Sloat, Jim Doig, Tara Bamford (phone), Patricia Crocker, Staff.

***Commissioners Absent:*** Rebecca Brown, Peter Blodgett, Ken Niemczyk, Peter Gregory, Alison Low, Samuel Swope, David Deen, Marion Allen.

### **Convene and Welcome**

#### **Business Meeting**

1. Approve December 2015 Meeting Minutes – Comm. Lembke moved to approve the minutes as presented. Comm. Sloat seconded. Vote: Unanimous.
2. Review December 2015 Financials – Comm. Walling moved to accept the financial report as of December 31, 2015. Comm. Doig seconded. Vote: Unanimous
3. Accept Annual Financial Review – Comm. Sloat move to accept the FY15 Auditors Financial Review. Comm. McClammer seconded the motion. Vote: unanimous.
4. Report on Local River Subcommittee (LRS) Activities – A written report was provided that summarized the activities of each subcommittee and Tara Bamford supplemented the report via telephone. She will reach out to some others in the Riverbend area since the Subcommittee won't be meeting in time regarding the boat ramp sign inventory. Discussion followed.
5. CRJC Subcommittee Reports; Planning Committee – Chris Thayer and Brendan Prusik prepared handouts on suggestions to focus CRJC activities using an Outcomes, Methods, Resources process (attached).

Comm. Lembke thanked Commissioners Prusik and Thayer for putting this

information together. Comm. Doig also thanked them and concurred with the suggestion for having a “river” festival or event. Comm. Company thanked them for this good start. Comm. Walling suggested the Commissioners present two specific outcomes they would like to see.

Next step would be to sit down with the Planning Committee and prepare a more robust discussion prior to the next full Commission meeting. Comm. Griffin concurred with the suggestion to have the Planning Sub Committee get together. Comm. Walling noted that the timing between concurring on a project and the receipt of funding to accomplish that objective will not be immediate.

Comm. Lembke suggested that the Planning Group should look at the overview and then take it to the next step toward individual projects. Comm. Doig suggested that the subcommittee work on the boat speed/ ramp signs at launches that are being looked at by the River subcommittees.

Commissioners requested staff to send out the list of subcommittee assignments again and, about a week before the next meeting, remind chairs to prepare subcommittee agendas for posting at least 24 hours before the meetings.

6. Confirm New LRS Members

Proposed new LRS members include: Riverbend – Ami Norton – Newbury; Mt Ascutney – Matthew Magnifico – Windsor; and Wantastiquet – Lisa Dotson – Westminster – replaces Alan Craig. Comm. Walling moved to confirm the proposed 3 new members to local river subcommittees seconded by Comm. Doig. Vote: Unanimous.

7. Re-establishing FERC Work Group & Proposed Collaboration with CRWC

Originally established in 2013, the FERC work group was created to help with the re-licensing process. Commissioners’ that expressed an interested in serving on this work group following a request for volunteers are Kurt Staudter and Jim McClammer affirmatively. Comm. Rasmussen posed the question as to whether to reinvigorate the committee or have it become a responsibility of the executive committee.

As created in 2013, the work group is required to report back to the executive committee for approval of any correspondence or public statements. Comm. Walling suggested that they continue with the work group so that CRJC is represented. Comm. Company suggested that the interested Commissioners just serve and then therefore the work group is disbanded and not official. Discussion followed.

The following individuals have expressed interest in serving on the re-established FERC working group. John Bruno and Kelly Stettner from Mt. Ascutney; Jim Kennedy and John Mudge from the Upper Valley; Lynn Dewald and Michael Fairchild of Wantastiquet, and Commissioners McClammer and Staudter. Comm. Griffin volunteered later. The consensus of the Commissioners was that the FERC work group that was started in 2013 is still functioning, and that the proposed new members be added to the group.

CRWC has suggested that the two organizations collaborate on arranging meetings with the Governor of each state to discuss relicensing of the dams and the possibility of establishing a mitigation and enhancement fund for the Southern parts of the river. Comm. Rasmussen asked whether the draft letter should be sent. The letter should be modified to make it clear that the licensee would similarly create a fund for the southern part of the Connecticut River. It was agreed that the Secretary/Commissioner will be copied on the letters. This FERC review is similar to the previous efforts and that reference will be deleted in the letters. The signature on the letters should be by the executive director/president with copy to River Steward David Deen and copies to the secretary/commissioner. Comm. Company moved to sign letter, Comm. Walling seconded the motion. Comm. Griffin abstained. Vote: Motion carried.

Collaboration with CRWC on peer review studies regarding river erosion was discussed. The Watershed Council is issuing an RFP for a consultant to conduct a peer review of the erosion studies. The CRWC wants to have the consultant in place so that they are available when the studies are published. Comm. Walling moved to agree to coordinate with CRWC. Financial participation can be decided by the Executive Committee in the interim once more information is available. Comm. Sloat seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

8. Reservoir Shoreland Protection Letter to VT Leg Committee

When the Shoreland Protection Act was initially passed last year, it did not include the lower 3 reservoirs on the Connecticut River. A bill (H.515) that was recently introduced in the Vermont Legislature would include these lower 3 reservoirs under the Act. A draft letter was provided in support of H.515. The Wantastiquet Subcommittee does not support the legislation as it is unclear what the effect would be on the development potential in the downtowns of Brattleboro and Bellows Falls. Comm. Hopkins' understanding was that development would be viewed on a case by case basis. Comm. Campany asked that CRJC hold off on supporting the bill until this was clarified. Comm. Griffin noted that the lower impoundments are moving water through all the time and are not standing bodies like lakes or the northern reservoirs.

Comm. Doig moved to get clarification from Representative Deen and urge further public input from the towns that would be affected. Comm. Campany seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.

9. April 18 Meeting Agenda – Invitation to States re: Boat Speed & Signs

Comm. Sanders reported a clear lack of signage. Comm. Rasmussen noted that the LRS are doing an inventory so the letter and inventory would go out together. Comm. Sanders felt signs were secondary to the issue of boat speeds on the river. Comm. Sanders suggested the letter go out inviting the enforcement officials to the next meeting even if all the inventories had not been completed by the Local River Subcommittees.

Comm. Sanders moved that a letter inviting the enforcement officials to the April meeting be sent. Comm. Lembke seconded the motion. The letter will be signed by President Rasmussen. Vote: Unanimous

10. Other Business/Announcements

None

Adjourn: 4:15 PM