



MINUTES – CRJC Full Commissions Meeting
(unapproved)
Monday October 21, 2013, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Harvest Hill at APD, Dwinell Room, Lebanon, NH

Members Present: Bren Whittaker(VT), Mary Sloat(NH), Rebecca Brown(NH), Tara Bamford (VT), Cleve Kapala (NH), Bob Christie (NH), Brendan Prusik (NH), Donna Drouin (NH), Beverly Major (VT), Rick Walling (NH). **Others Present:** Nancy Ketcham, Fisheries Biologist, US Forest Service, Rochester, VT

Administrative Staff/Consultants: Patricia Crocker, Rachel Ruppel, Vickie Davis

President Whittaker convened the meeting at 2:05 PM with introductions. A quorum was not achieved due to lack of a fifth VT representative. Whittaker stated that two subcommittee reports on Strategic Direction and Relicensing will not be presented. Relative to the FERC Relicensing Kapala provide a brief report on the status of the FERC relicensing activity. Public meetings were scheduled to discuss how the closure of Vermont Yankee will affect the process, but these were postponed due to the Federal shutdown. They are expected to be scheduled soon.

Brown inquired about the use of a Consent Agenda for Full Commission meetings. The consent agenda allows for routine and non-controversial items such as the minutes and financial reports to be passed with a single vote. This practice has been in use for the Executive Committee and has been useful in saving time to address programmatic issues. The documents are provided to Commissioners prior to the meetings. Any Commissioner can place a hold on any one item if they believe more detail discussion is advisable. The consensus was to use a consent agenda for future Commission meetings and this change in process will be warned for the next Full Commission meeting.

Reports from Local River Subcommittees

Wantastiquet: Bev Major reported on their very successful Source-to-Sea Cleanup event. The Subcommittee wanted to do something to get their name in the public and received a lot of good coverage in the local press. Donna Drouin reported and presented the article in the Keene Sentinel River Record Supplement. They reported that In Walpole some citizens are using the beach as their private dump and they are working on that issue. Wantastiquet is re-staffed and new list should be checked for members.

Mount Ascutney: Vickie Davis is staff for the Mount Ascutney River Subcommittee. They have been building up the membership. This is a good group of people that bring a variety of skills to the subcommittee. They attended a presentation by David Deen on healthy streams; and provided brochures at the Herrick's Cove Festival. They also did a septic system maintenance seminar for the public. Kelly Stetner is chair of subcommittee and serves on Black River Action Team. They are investigating potential grants through TransCanada for a boat washing station on the VT side of the River. The subcommittee worked very hard on the updated recreation plan. Their next meeting will be at the Empty Bowl Dinner at Springfield High School. New Hampshire is not as well represented as VT on Mt. Ascutney. Cornish is one of the towns lacking an active representative.

Upper Valley: Rachel Ruppel reported new members from Norwich and Hanover, xx and Jim Kennedy. There are vacancies in Hartford and Lebanon. This subcommittee gets the most permit applications. They take this seriously and it is a major focus of their activities. The other focus is the Wilder Dam relicensing and they have participated in hearings. An erosion site walk was conducted in Lyme and over 20 people attended.

Riverbend: Commissioner Bamford stepped down and presented the report from Riverbend. Membership has improved, but she could use assistance from CRJC commissioners to recruit members and seek replacement of inactive committee members. The subcommittee's major concern is the tar sands pipeline that crosses the river at Lancaster and may be used in the opposite direction from the current light crude to transport tar sands oil. Tar sands material is a significant environmental hazard. The subcommittee signed on to a letter to delegates in NH and VT asking for a Presidential Permit to be required and that further research be conducted before the pipeline use is changed. The subcommittee did not oppose the pipeline, but asked for new considerations. The pipeline was constructed during World War II and is very old physically and technically. Both Headwaters and Riverbend have had very little recent contact with NHDES. Discussion followed of contacts with NHDES. Rick Walling note that Riverbend will be developing an outreach plan.

Discussion followed about how best to make contact with NHDES. Bamford will contact the Rivers Program staff at DES to see how they can work together and improve regular communication. Whittaker will work with Bamford and Kapala to get back in touch with the Rivers program coordinator and have some response for the subcommittees at the December meeting.

Headwaters: The subcommittee has updated its recreation plan. They worked to notch up the DES approach to stop creosote leaking from St. Lawrence Atlantic Railroad bridges. The constant dripping can be seen when a river is frozen, but is less visible when the river is flowing. The subcommittee wrote a letter asking that DES fine the RR, but the bridge is being cleaned up now.

Northern Pass is a concern for the group. Trans Canada spoke to the committee about flow issues. The group is struggling with membership and Ron Rhoades of CRWC has been helpful with a variety of issues but often do not have a quorum and have no member from Pittsburg. Bamford inquired whether the bylaws can be amended in subcommittees to deal with inactive membership such as creating an attendance requirement. This topic will be put on the Executive Committee agenda.

At 3:18 Whittaker introduced guest speaker Nancy Ketcham, Fisheries Biologist with the US Forest Service Rochester District Office (VT). Her talk detailed the post-Irene river recovery efforts on the White River near Rochester, VT. The solution they are using are engineered log jams that have been successful in the Pacific Northwest/Alaska. They will be put in to help restore the stability of river banks and help reduce water velocity and help direct it into the flood plain. The recovery structures also provide excellent fish habitat.

The western wood berms use cedar and their life is quite long. The project here is using Norway spruce which is a non-native species that will be harvested from CCC Camp. The life expectancy for the spruce will be about 50 years. The structures are useful in studying ice-out potential. The Forest Service has partnered with upstream and down-stream landowners for the project as well as Trout Unlimited.

Lacking a quorum some of minutes and reports will be presented at the next meeting. Discussion followed on the printing of the local river subcommittee recreation plans. The funds available for the printing remained unspent at the end of fiscal year 2013 and are available for this use in the current fiscal year. The consensus was to proceed with the overdue printing of the plans. A budget adjustment report will be prepared and presented by the Executive Committee for information with the next financial report.

Rebecca Brown suggested that Carol Foss of Audubon be invited to speak to the CRJC December meeting. Dwinell Room would be reserved for the December meeting if available.

Brown moved to adjourn seconded by Sloat at 4:05 pm.