



**Connecticut River Joint Commissions  
Executive Committee Meeting –  
Monday, January 18, 2016  
2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Commissioners Present: Jason Rasmussen, James McClammer, Rick Walling, Kurt Staudter, David Deen, and Staff Pat Crocker. Absent: Mary Sloat

**Other Business** – Comm. Deen joined the meeting to discuss working as a team with Connecticut River Watershed Council on meetings with the Governors of the two states brings them into the discussion of the relicensing of the Connecticut River dams. Comm. Deen reported that then Governors Shaheen and Dean were involved in the process of relicensing the Fifteen Mile Falls dam and their involvement gained benefits for the river. Today’s conversation is about the logistics of making that happen.

Comm. Deen also suggested a joint letter be sent out to the Governors and to try to schedule meetings with each governor in February or March. This timeframe would help to engage them early in the process, but January 2017 is when TransCanada must submit a final formal application. The Mitigation and Enhancement fund was recognized by FERC in the case of Fifteen Mile Falls (see attached summary). Both States prepare the Clean Water Act Section 401 application to the EPA. States can prepare the applications jointly, but generally states file individually.

In terms of the political cycle with elections coming in November, the timing is not ideal; however, it is still important to get this on the agenda at governor’s offices regardless of who may be serving following elections. The Executive Committee with Comm. Deen proposed a broad agenda for those meetings:

- Tell the 15–miles Falls Story and the Mitigation and Enhancement Funds
- Share a summary prepared by Kevin Peterson at the Community Foundation about all that has been done for the river as a result of the M&E funding.
- The significance of this process as the next major relicensing and will be 40 years from now and will impact several generations of citizens.

Erosion – Land Owner Concerns, i.e., Lyme is very concerned about River Road and Charlestown/Walpole related to the proposed relocation of railroad tracks and road construction. Ask Governors to consider impacts of erosion on the constituents. Impacts also of climate changes to erosion damage, but this may be considered as

a separate issue from the relicensing discussions.

Comm. Deen will prepare a first draft for the February Full Commissions meetings.

Discussion followed of potential for assessments of TransCanada's fiscal impacts on the towns and whether these are sufficient as currently established. Discussion of the major areas impacted by erosion due to the dam activities followed. Mapping of critical areas would be beneficial to determine the width of the buffers. At this point, the Connecticut was specifically left out of the guidelines issued in the previous year. It is possible that heightened concerns about erosion may prompt a request for additional studies. It was noted that some of the things agreed to in last licensing agreement are not being pursued. Some of these enforcement issues are perhaps separate from this letter. Commissioner Deen left the meeting at

**Approval Minutes** – Executive Committee, November 2015. Comm. Walling moved, and Comm. Staudter seconded the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried with abstention of a member who had not been present.

**Financials/ Statement through November 30, 2015.** Comm. Walling moved to accept financials and Comm. Staudter seconded. Motion Carried. Comm. Staudter moved to accept the annual financial review and recommend acceptance to the Full Commission. Comm. McClammer seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Committee Requested Staff to:

1. Create a spread sheet of three committees and Executive Committee – and the issues that each has to deal with.
2. Send second request for interest in FERC committee with a deadline for response.
3. Look at minutes to see how the FERC committee was established.
4. Compile list of Commissioners' attendance for review.
5. Email Comm. Walling and Comm. Sanders to look into development of grant for completing the upgrades and transfer of data to the new website.

### **February Agenda – Full Commission – February Meeting**

- Discussion of Draft Letter David Deen
- Status of the FERC Subcommittee and develop a charge for the FERC subcommittee and then work through EC and Full Commission in the context of the River Management/Corridor Management Plan and gain support of the river subcommittees.
- Accept Financial Review as adopted by Executive Committee.

**Comm. McClammer moved; Comm. Staudter seconded motion to adjourn at 4:15 p.m.**

**Adopted: March 21, 2016**