



**Connecticut River Joint Commissions
Executive Committee Meeting –
Monday, November 16, 2015
2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Present: Jason Rasmussen, James McClammer, Mary Sloat, Pat Crocker

Approval Minutes Comm. McClammer moved approval of the July minutes with the addition to a dollar sign in the sentence referring to river subcommittees.

Commissioner Sloat second. Motion carried.

Financial Statement through September 30, 2015 was reviewed. Comm. Sloat moved to accept the statements as presented; seconded by Comm. McClammer. Motion carried.

A memo from Commissioner David Deen (attached) regarding CRJC collaboration with the Watershed Council to convene meetings with the two state governors in part about establishing a mitigation and enhancement fund for the lower half of the Connecticut River was reviewed. Discussion followed. Comm. McClammer raised the topic of Revenue sharing from utilities as one aspect of creating such a fund. Comm. Deen is asking the Executive Committee to recommend this and to put approval on agenda for the December 14 meeting. Comm. Sloat moved and Comm. McClammer seconded a motion to endorse the idea and put on the agenda for the December meeting. Motion carried.

The Executive Committee asked staff to see if David Deen can meet with them for about 30 minutes prior to the December meeting.

December agenda – Reports from LRS and other sub-Committees, Memo from David Deen, Comm. Sanders on Coordinating bi-state meeting on Wake Speeds in February.

Comm. Sloat moved to adjourn; seconded by Comm. McClammer at 3 p.m.

Attachment- CRJC EC Minutes 11/16/15

To: Jason Rasmussen

From: David Deen

Re: Joint CRJC/CRWC meeting with the Governors of VT and NH to talk about FERC relicensing

Hi Jason

CRWC would like to suggest that CRWC and CRJC ask for meetings with the Governors of VT and NH. The topic would be asking them to pay personal attention to the FERC relicensing of the three dams on the mainstem of the river. Along with asking for strong water quality provisions in the state issued 401 Water Quality Certificate, one other key subtopic would be to ask them to help us get a Mitigation and Enhancement fund established for the southern reach of the river.

Our two organizations worked together on the relicensing of Fifteen Mile Falls back at the turn of the century (Isn't that a great phrase!) to reach settlement with the then owner of the FMF complex, PG&E. Our work together led to the establishment of the Mitigation and Enhancement fund that has been helping organizations do good things for the river since 2003.

CRJC is in place to advise the Governors and the Legislatures of the two states on issues facing the Connecticut River. This relicensing is a core issue because the new licenses will control the dam effects on the river for 40 years into the future. There could be nothing more essential to meeting the charge of the Commissions than to advise the Governors on this relicensing.

CRWC has been and will remain active in all aspects of the relicensing but in terms of getting each of the Governors' offices to pay attention; we would like to ask for help from CRJC. We have advice from observers that statements of concern from citizens to the Governors about the effect of this relicensing are necessary to move this issue onto the radar of the two offices.

CRWC is ready to ask for these meetings but we feel we would be more effective together. If CRJC endorses this approach, we would cooperate fully with CRJC on the logistics of arranging such meetings. The first step would seem to be for the CRJC board to endorse moving forward so the request is that the Executive Committee places this idea on the agenda for the next CRJC full board meeting. Given where we are in the FERC process, now is the time for this idea to move forward.

As I am in flight during the Executive Committee meeting, you will not be able to reach me even on my cell phone. Andrew Fisk; CRWC Executive Director is available to answer any questions. You can reach him on his cell phone at 413-210-9207.