



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 17, 2012**

**Contact: Rebecca Brown, President of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions  
(603) 823-7777  
2sugarhillmutts@gmail.com**

### **Connecticut River Joint Commissions Receives Grant from State of Vermont to Implement Strategic Plan**

Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) announces that it has received a \$34,960 grant through the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation. This one-year grant provides funding to implement CRJC's July 2012-June 2013 work program as outlined in its new Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan emphasizes the grassroots work of the local river subcommittees as our local eyes and ears, and in guiding implementation of our river management plans. The Strategic Plan is intended to make the most out of the experience, expertise, networks, and resources of the 30 commissioners themselves. CRJC will focus on the key issues facing the watershed, and will continue to play its bi-state role of convening, catalyzing, and leading dialogue on these issues, and making recommendations to the two states as appropriate.

Current focus areas for CRJC include:

- Participating as a stakeholder in the federal relicensing of hydroelectric facilities at Wilder Dam, Bellows Falls Dam, Vernon Dam in New Hampshire and Vermont as well as the Turners Falls Dam and Northfield Mountain in northern Massachusetts;
- Publishing regional Recreation Management Plans for the Connecticut River, developed by our five Local River Subcommittees;
- Providing a forum for open discussion about projects affecting the Connecticut River and its watershed, such as the Connecticut River's recent National Blueway designation and the termination of the Atlantic salmon stocking program.

"The Local River Subcommittees are at the heart of the CRJC," said Chris Company, Executive Director of the Windham Regional Commission, Chair of the Vermont Connecticut River Watershed Advisory Commission, and Vice-President of the CRJC. "It's the local levels where

decisions get made that have the greatest impact on the health of the Connecticut River. The Local River Subcommittee members bring a watershed perspective to their towns, and bring their town's perspective to the CRJC."

New Hampshire's Connecticut River Valley Resource Commission, created by the legislature in 1987, and Vermont's Connecticut River Watershed Advisory Commission, similarly created in 1988, was directed to cooperate with each other to preserve and protect the resources of the Connecticut River Valley, and to guide its growth and development. They have met together as the Joint Commissions since 1989.

Both Commissions are advisory and have no regulatory powers, preferring instead to advocate and ensure public involvement in decisions which affect their river and their valley.

For more information about CRJC, please visit the newly-redesigned website at <http://www.crjc.org>.