



2014 Annual Report

Connecticut River Joint Commissions



Education and Engagement

The Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) have continued their work to educate and engage citizens in matters affecting the River, communities within the watershed, and the economic and environmental health of the entire region in both states.

The Commissions carry out their work through five local river subcommittees and a dedicated corps of over 100 volunteers throughout Vermont and New Hampshire.

This year the CRJC meetings offered a series of educational presentations on a variety of topics:

- Katie Kennedy, Applied River Scientist with the Connecticut River Program of The Nature Conservancy, gave a presentation on a river flow model for the Connecticut River watershed. It is intended to be used to evaluate how large dams (e.g., hydropower dams and US Army Corps flood control dams) can modify their flow management to balance competing needs, such as hydropower, flood control, recreation, aquatic habitat, and floodplain habitat.
- US Forest Service Fisheries Biologist Nancy Ketcham of the Rochester, VT Office talked about the post– Hurricane Irene river recovery efforts on the White River. She explained the use of engineered log jams that have successfully restored stability to the river banks, reduce water velocity, and provide excellent fish habitat.
- Commissioner Cleve Kapala provided a report on the status of the FERC relicensing activity and the effects that the closure of Vermont Yankee would have on the process. River Subcommittee leaders reported on their activities at the local level.
- Carol Foss, Conservation Director of the NH Audubon Society presented information and led a discussion about tar sands oil and its environmental impacts as well as the implications of the Portland Pipeline for Northern New England and specifically the Connecticut River.
- Connecticut River Watershed Council River Steward Ron Rhodes spoke about the CRWC crowd source funding site, Clean Water Future (CWF). Similar to “Kickstarter,” CRWC is using this method to successfully raise funds for projects to remove invasive species, stabilize a recreation trail and trout stream, and support Paddle with a Purpose aquatic invasives mitigation project.

- Emily Bird of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission provided a presentation about the Long Island Sound Total Maximum Daily Load pollution reduction initiative that requires the cooperation of municipalities and citizens along the entire Connecticut River Watershed to accomplish. The Connecticut is the largest of all the watersheds into the Sound.

The CRJC Executive Committee also met on six occasions during the fiscal year.

Local River Subcommittees

Along with their ongoing reviews of permits for activities along the River, CRJC's five Local River Subcommittees had many accomplishments. Some highlights of these include:

Headwaters

The Headwaters Subcommittee continued to monitor and respond to threats to the River and its resources. As a result, more than 500 creosote-leaking railroad ties on the N. Stratford railroad bridge over the River were replaced, an engineering



Removal of Ties Leaking Creosote

study was launched on Bissell Brook where erosion threatens a busy multi-use rail trail, and local fishing guides and state officials are working with TransCanada to improve the management of river flows to balance recreation, habitat, hydropower, and flood control needs.

Riverbend

The Riverbend Subcommittee met quarterly at the Littleton Community Center in July and

October 2013, and in January and April 2014. The focus of the Riverbend Subcommittee has been on outreach and education, and on learning about the condition and use of the oil pipelines that cross the River in Lancaster. The Subcommittee engaged in the nation-wide conversation about the potential impacts of reversing the flow of the pipeline for tar sands oil.

Wantastiquet

The Wantastiquet Subcommittee held a Source to Sea Clean up on October 5, 2013. The team, named the Hellgrammites, because hellgrammites, the larval stage of a dobsonfly, are an



The Hellgrammites Clean up

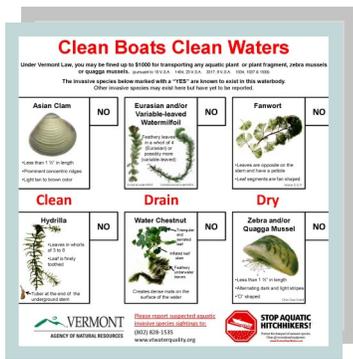
indicator of clean water, worked with the Connecticut River Watershed Council to pick up garbage along the shores of the Connecticut River and its main tributaries. Over 30 volunteers participated and included 19 students from Brattleboro Union and Hinsdale High Schools.

Upper Valley

Upper Valley Subcommittee and Mascoma River Local Advisory Committee convened a Regional Meeting with NH Rivers Program and Rivers Management Advisory Committee. NH DES Rivers Program staff member Jacquie Colburn discussed potential changes to the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Act, so that the law may be updated to meet the needs of the next 25 years. The river nomination process, river corridor management plans vs. watershed plans, water quality monitoring programs, and state lands along designated rivers were among the topics covered.

Mount Ascutney

Mount Ascutney Subcommittee has provided effective and lively community leadership during



the year. The members have helped to distribute educational signs to many of the boat launches along their segment of the river.



The humble beginning of New England's Great River — Fourth Connecticut Lake, Pittsburg, NH

Public Outreach

CRJC staff published the monthly email newsletter to keep CRJC members, subcommittees, and the public informed of meetings, special events, projects, and partnerships with other organizations. The publication also reaches those with a general interest in CRJC activities and the mailing list has grown to 225 subscribers as of June 30, 2014. The newsletter and social media have helped to increase CRJC's visibility and public engagement.

Special Projects

FERC Hydroelectric Dam Relicensing

CRJC's subcommittee is monitoring the federal relicensing of TransCanada's hydroelectric facilities at Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon Dams. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) integrated licensing process started in fall 2012 will take five years. CRJC attended public and stakeholder meetings to learn about and provide feedback on TransCanada's proposed studies on the environmental resources that may be affected by dam operations.



Wilder Dam, Hartford, Vermont

Updated Recreation Plans Published

CRJC's five Local River Subcommittees reissued their Regional Recreation Management Plans which are part of the Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan. Subcommittees updated the plans to reflect the progress that has been made in the past five years. The new Recreation Plans were published in the Fall of 2014 and are now online via CRJC's website: <http://www.crjc.org>

Connecticut River Byway Way-finding Signs

CRJC, with Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission acting as Project Manager, continued to work with Byway Waypoint Communities to install way-finding signs for travelers looking for information and points of interest.

Waypoint Communities serve as welcome centers in Brattleboro, Hartford, Rockingham, St. Johnsbury, Wells River, Windsor, VT and Claremont, Colebrook, Haverhill and Lancaster, NH. The project is expected to be completed in FY2015. Support for this project was provided by FHWA National Scenic Byway Discretionary Grant Program through the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

Connecticut River Joint Commissions - Commissioners FY2014

New Hampshire

Connecticut River Valley Resource Commission

Robert Ball, Jefferson
 Rebecca Brown, Sugar Hill
 Dr. Robert Christie, Hanover*
 Donna Drouin, Walpole
 Robert Harcke, Westmoreland
 Cleveland Kapala, Contoocook
 Elaine Levlocke, Chesterfield
 James McClammer, Charlestown
 Brendan Prusik, Colebrook
 Aaron Simpson, Lebanon
 Mary Sloat, Lancaster
 Chris Thayer, Bethlehem
 Richard Walling, Bath

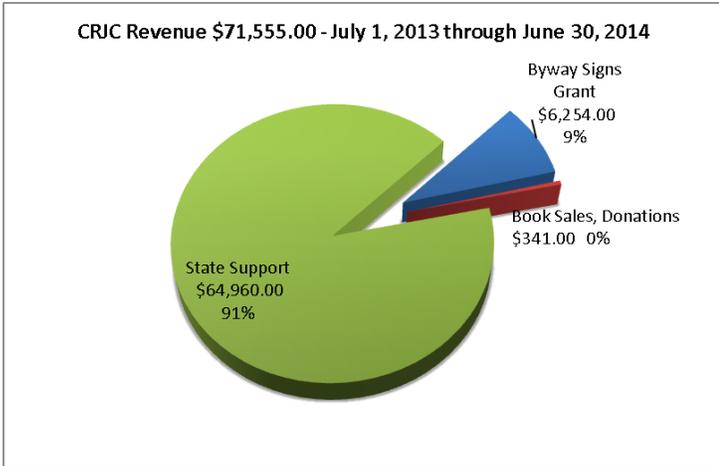
Vermont

Connecticut River Watershed Advisory Commission

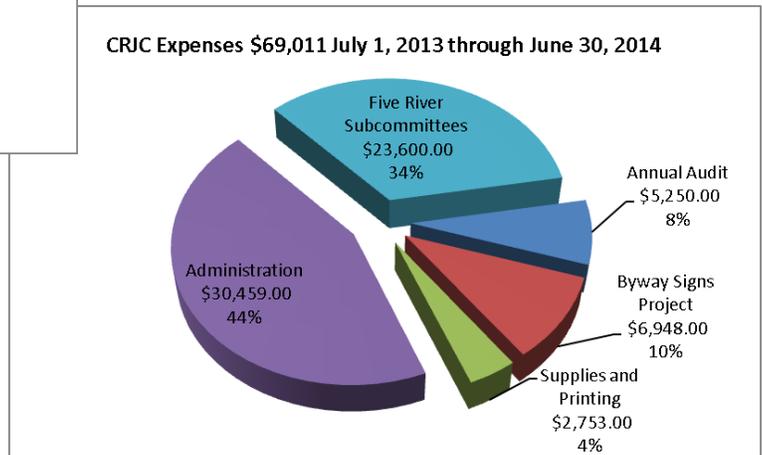
Tara Bamford, Thetford
 Chris Campany, Brattleboro
 David Deen, Westminster
 Peter Gregory, Woodstock
 Richmond Hopkins, VT ANR Alternate
 Thomas Kennedy, Ascutney
 Alison Low, St. Johnsbury
 Beverly Major, Westminster*
 Gary Moore, Bradford*
 Michaela Stickney, VT ANR
 Brendan Whittaker, Brunswick
 * *Denotes outgoing Commissioners*

FY 2014 CRJC Officers

Brendan Whittaker, President
 Rebecca Brown, Vice President
 Thomas Kennedy, Secretary
 Mary Sloat, Treasurer



Financial Report



Fiscal Year 2014 Financial Report—Unaudited