

CRJC Riverbend Subcommittee

Draft Minutes

Thursday October 24, 2013

Littleton Community Center

Members Present:

Jim Sherrard, Littleton

Jan Edick, Littleton

Mike Monaghan, Monroe

Ken Hunter, Monroe

Rick Walling, Bath

Richard Long, Bath

David Falkenham, Haverhill

Bill Graves, Barnet

Jim Doig, Newbury

Stephanie Taylor, Newbury

Others:

Tara Bamford, NCC staff

Bob Ball, CRJC

Torrance Gaucher, Lyndon State

Adam Donnelley, Lyndon State

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Rick Walling and introductions were made.

2. The minutes of July 25, 2013 were approved as presented by motion of Doig/Monaghan.

3. The task list was reviewed. Between meetings:

- Stephanie sent Tara the Selectboard minutes of her appointment for CRJC files.
- Carol Foss put Tara in touch with the Vt tar sands coalition.
- Tara put together sample outreach material and draft outreach plan and scheduled discussion.
- Rick signed onto NH and VT tar sands letters on behalf of Riverbend.
- Rick wrote town of Concord about floodplain wetland filling case on behalf of Riverbend.
- Jan spoke to someone he knows in Ryegate about serving on the subcommittee but the individual does not have time. He will however mention the need to others.

- Jan visited the interstate highway bridge work over the rivers. It is not the project that the subcommittee reviewed. It is paving and drainage work.

Discussion followed about NHDES cooperative agreement where NHDOT monitors own work. Jan noted that highway projects often involve wetlands because it was easier and cheaper to build the highways in the undeveloped areas. Rick noted that recently a project was changed from being considered a major wetland impact to a minor and the reasons were unclear.

Items remaining to do and those that came up in this meeting needing follow-up are included in the attached task list.

4. There was no permit activity between meetings.

5. The committee discussed outreach goals and how to conduct outreach. It was agreed that the long term goal will be implementation of the corridor plan. Short term goals include: 1. Increasing local officials' awareness of the Subcommittee and its role, 2. Increasing public awareness of water quality issues/ bmps, and 3. Targeted education for shoreline owners. Suggestions included distributing homeowners guides at town meeting; visiting town boards, ideally starting with Selectboard and then planning boards/commissions; coordinating with schools. It was also agreed that first the group needs to work together on talking points, making sure the information is current and includes a focus on what still goes into the river and on economics. Tara will collect some recent info on water quality, invasives and flow to help the group put together talking points. The question was asked if there are still any CSOs in the area. Tara will ask DES and ANR. It was discussed that public access connects people to the river and is a priority of the Mitigation and Enhancement Fund.

Riverbank erosion continues to be a concern. There is a general feeling that it has been getting worse with the recent years' severe storm events, and that someone should be monitoring it. As it gets wider and shallower it will become an issue for boaters. Tara will get the info from CRJC's erosion study on the northern segment; the info about causes etc will likely be applicable to this segment as well. Tara was also asked to ask CRJC what data they have on riverbank erosion and to suggest that the two states should be asked for funds for this purpose.

The question came up as to how much flows are mitigated by the dams, i.e., is that part of their role. Tara will ask TransCanada to come to a future meeting to give a brief presentation on management of the dams and recreation areas on this segment and answer questions. It was agreed that this topic may be of interest to the public.

It was suggested that the handout packet and talking points should be tailored to the audience, e.g., town-related resources would include info on the Vt Better Backroads program and NH Road Scholars vs. homeowners guides for a homeowners association.

Tara offered to make some copies of the water resources plan for members to take to towns when they go.

Rick asked that everyone read the water resources chapter before the next meeting and identify what they think will catch the interest of town officials, e.g., economic benefits, achievable steps, and things that can enhance the town. Rick asked that everyone send this list to Tara who will use it to compile some draft talking points for the next meeting. Rick will make copies of the powerpoint presentation that Adair developed on the plan.

It was also suggested that if members would be willing to obtain the names and addresses of shoreline owners from their town office, this would enable sending information specific to shorelines to them if we can identify a means to pay for postage.

Bob Ball mentioned a Ted Walsh study on the health of the river. He will see what is available and report back.

It was noted that this meeting will be on tomorrow's Channel 7 news out of Lyndonville so there will be some outreach.

#### 6. Updates

CRJC met Monday. The Recreation chapter is going to be going to the printer. This will be something else members can bring to towns when they visit.

Littleton adopted the Ammonoosuc plan as an appendix to the town's master plan.

#### 7. Other Business

Tara reported that she is meeting with Lise Moran, an historic preservation intern, on Friday. Mary Sloat had suggested that Lise may be a resource for some aspect of the pipeline issue. Historic resources were not covered by the law back when the pipeline was constructed so they were not studied. Rick will try to make it to the meeting.

Bob Ball reported that the Mitigation and Enhancement deadline is November 15. An erosion study was suggested as a possible grant application target for next year.

8. The tentative schedule for 2014 meetings pending confirmation of the meeting space was set as the 4th Thursday in January, April, July and October. It was agreed that the Littleton Sr Center may be a better location for meetings with public programs re fire safety rules. The tentative plan will be for January to include both a report from the Vt tar sands coalition and preparing for visits to towns, including watching the water resources plan presentation and discussing talking points. The April meeting will tentatively include a presentation from TransCanada.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Minutes submitted by Tara Bamford

## Task List

### **ALL -**

Read water resources plan and send Tara thoughts on what in it will resonate with town officials so she can use this information to draft talking points for members to use in visits to towns.

### **Tara-**

Follow up with the Vt tar sands coalition about a possible presentation at the January meeting.

Ask DES and ANR if there are any CSOs on this segment.

Collect some recent info on water quality, invasives and flow to help the group put together talking points.

Ask TransCanada to come to a future meeting to give a brief presentation on management of the dams and recreation areas on this segment and answer questions.

Review CRJC study of erosion on northern segment.

Ask CRJC what data they have on riverbank erosion and suggest that both states be asked for funds for this purpose.

Print some additional copies of the water resources plan for members to take to towns.

Draft talking points based on input from members.

Arrange location for 2014 meetings, speakers for January and April, and send out schedule to be posted.

### **Rick**

Keep trying to get info from NHDES about MOU with NHDOT.

Check in with the new watershed association collaborative forming in Vt. and update Riverbend members.

Make copies of the powerpoint presentation that Adair put together on the water resources plan.

### **Mike-**

Try to get more copies of the TU shoreline owners guide to bring to a future meeting.

**Bob Ball -**

See what is available on the health of the river from the Ted Walsh study.

**For subcommittee to keep on radar-**

Nov 2014 Mitigation and Enhancement grant application for erosion study.