

**Connecticut River Joint Commissions
Wantastiquet Local River Subcommittee**

August 19, 2015
Windham Regional Commission
139 Main Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Draft
Meeting Summary

Present

Elaine Levlocke, Chesterfield
Peter Barrett, Westminster
Michael Fairchild, Brattleboro
Rod Francis, Brattleboro
Donna Drouin, CRJC
Jim McClammer, CRJC
Chris Campany, CRJC
Tara Bamford, NCC staff

- I. **Introductions** Elaine offered to chair the meeting and opened the meeting at 4:30. Introductions were made.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** of June 17, 2015 meeting. The minutes were reviewed but not voted on since there was no quorum. No revisions were noted.
- III. **Source to Sea** - It was agreed that much organizing for the event is still needed if it going to be an effective outreach event. Liz was going to register the group and Tara offered to follow up with her on that. Donna leads a second node in Walpole in conjunction with the schools. The goal was to cover more sites. Michael reported that he has not observed much trash on the river except in the areas used by the homeless and areas where debris collects above impoundments and Transcanada addresses those. Tara offered to contact Jennifer Griffin to see if Transcanada will be participating in the Source to Sea cleanups and if so what they plan to do. Donna will take care of a press release once it is clear what sites are bring done and what else to tell the public. The best was to address the areas used by the homeless was discussed, i.e., how to involve them and help them clean up their camps without giving tacit approval to the camps. The safety of school children at some locations might be a concern. It was agreed that it may be too late to involve school groups not already on board. Tara will put organizing on the agenda for early spring next year so contacts can be made before school lets out

for the summer. Spring green-up day in Vermont may also be an opportunity to connect with other groups. Everyone agreed to contact their conservation commissions and other groups to broaden the scope.

IV. Permit Reviews

There were no permits to discuss. The process for review of permits between meetings was discussed. Staff has been collecting and compiling input from members.

V. Other Business

Jim McClammer explained the origin and objective of the draft letter ANR about including all Connecticut River impoundments rather than just Moore and Comerford which were on the state's list of water bodies used for implementation of the new shoreland regulations. Tara explained that Jim had drafted the letter after a CRJC discussion about the lack of equity of having some but not all reservoirs on the River covered by shoreland regulations, and it was agreed by the Executive Committee that before further discussion, the Subcommittee should all be given a chance to weigh in since they represent the communities. Liz has sent her input to be included in the record (attached). It was not clear what her reference to the FERC process meant in the context of shoreland protection. Rod explained that the application of the shoreland regulations would be an immense burden for Brattleboro and other communities on the river with established downtowns and commercial/industrial areas. He said the information published by ANR supports that this was not intent of the law - it is all about camps on lakes. He stressed that if application to the Connecticut River in Brattleboro has been discussed, local leaders would have been vehemently opposing the law due. Discussion continued about ANR's ability to evenly enforce existing laws.

VI. Next Meeting was set for September 15 at 4:30 to review plans for the Source to Sea clean-up and identify anything else that needs to be done. Chris will check on the availability of the room.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tara Bamford.