



Headwaters at Fourth Connecticut Lake Pittsburg, NH and Chartierville, Quebec,

CRJC's mission is to preserve the visual and ecological integrity and sustainable working landscape of the Connecticut River Valley, and guide its growth and development through grassroots leadership. Five local river subcommittees carry out this work with a corps of over 100 volunteers.

### ***Education and Engagement***

The Connecticut River Joint Commissions have continued to educate and engage citizens about the River and the economic and environmental health of the entire region in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Meetings continued educational presentations:

- In August 2015, Commissioner Deen presented information on Vermont's Act 64 relating to improving the quality of State waters and its potential impact on the Connecticut River. This act amends or enacts multiple statutes related to water quality in the State. The act amends several provisions regarding agricultural water quality. The "accepted agricultural

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July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

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practices" are renamed the "required agricultural practices (RAPs)." The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) shall revise the RAPs by rule by July 1, 2016. The revised RAPs include requirements for: small farm certification, nutrient storage, soil health, buffer zones, livestock exclusion, nutrient management, and tile drainage.

- The draft Conte Refuge Plan was presented by USFS Wildlife Refuge Manager Mark Maghini at the October 2015 meeting. A revised conservation plan has been suggested and Commissioners and the public were encouraged to make comments on the new plan.
- The problem of boat speed and erosion caused by wakes, particularly in narrow corridors, was on the agenda in December 2015. The outcome from these discussions was the installation of new signs at public boat launches on both sides of the river.
- Collaboration with the Connecticut River Watershed Council to monitor the FERC relicensing of the hydro-electric dams on the river was a key topic of discussion at the February 2016 meeting. A FERC working group was re-established and collaboration with CRWC was affirmed.

## Public Outreach

CRJC's website [www.crjc.org](http://www.crjc.org) is simple to access and can be edited using a web-based interface. The new website makes CRJC publications and events easier to locate. It includes an events calendar for CRJC meetings/events as well as partner events and local river subcommittee meetings.

The monthly electronic CRJC Update keeps members and subcommittees informed of meetings, events, and announcements. The publication also reaches those with a general interest in CRJC activities



Connecticut River, Morey Bridge, Orford, New Hampshire

## Local River Subcommittee Activities

The local river subcommittees provide local input on projects proposed on the Connecticut River to Federal Agencies, NHDES, VANR and municipalities on matters pertaining to the river. Staff support is provided by North Country Council with funding from the states of New Hampshire and Vermont.

### Headwaters

Headwaters Subcommittee reviews and comments on proposed permits and plans; and periodically updates a corridor management plan. In 2015, activities included:

- ◆ Reviewed and commented on several shoreline stabilization projects and wetland applications
- ◆ Submitted comments on water resource related elements of the Northern Pass application.

- ◆ Reviewed NH boat accesses and boat access maps for the NH Public Water Access Advisory Board
- ◆ Conducted an inventory of boat launch speed limit signs.

### Riverbend

The Riverbend Subcommittee meets quarterly. Its member represent two states, five counties, and thirteen towns along 70 miles of the Connecticut River.

In 2016, activities included:

- ◆ Hosted a presentation on the Clean Water/Healthy Trout program
- ◆ Met jointly with the Ammonoosuc River LAC to learn about the scenic impacts of Northern Pass
- ◆ Hosted a discussion on the sale of the TransCanada hydropower dams in the region
- ◆ Reviewed NH boat accesses and boat access maps for the NH Public Water Access Advisory Board.
- ◆ Conducted an inventory of boat launch speed limit signs.

### Upper Valley

The Upper Valley Subcommittee reviewed and commented on a wide range of regulatory applications, including river shoreline stabilization, wetlands activity, stormwater management, utility and solar projects, and private waterfront structures.

- ◆ The subcommittee members volunteered a great deal of extra time to represent the interest of the River and its resources, as well as landowners and local municipalities in the relicensing process for TransCanada's Wilder Dam hydroelectric facility. Study reports were reviewed and comments were submitted to FERC regarding erosion and water quality.



Connecticut River, West Lebanon, NH

- ◆ Reviewed NH boat accesses and boat access maps for the NH Public Water Access Advisory Board.
- ◆ Conducted an inventory of boat launch speed limit signs and installed signs with NH speed limit signs.

### **Mt. Ascutney**

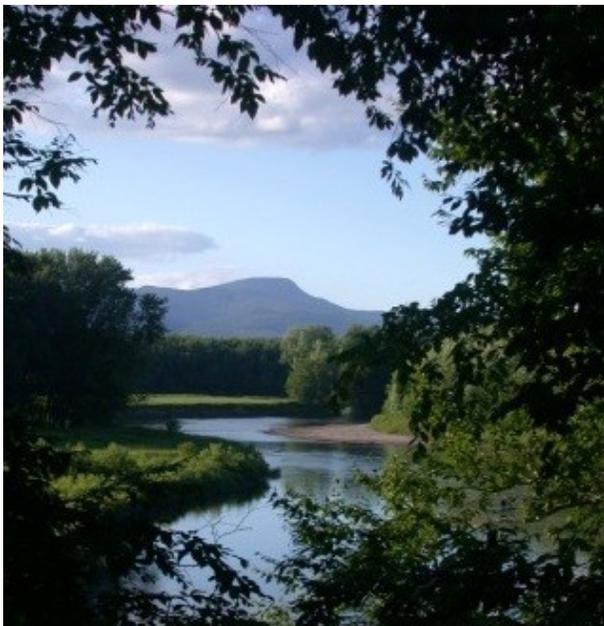
The Mt. Ascutney Subcommittee meets every two months to discuss and act on a variety of river-related issues.

In 2016, activities included:

- ◆ Participated in FERC process for relicensing Trans-Canada’s hydropower facilities in Wilder and Bel-lows Falls.
- ◆ Submitted comments to FERC regarding bank ero-sion and the need for mitigation funds to assist property owners.
- ◆ Held an annual septic system education workshop for homeowners in Springfield, Vermont.
- ◆ Reviewed and commented on several permit appli-cations.
- ◆ Reviewed NH boat accesses and boat access maps for the NH Public Water Access Advisory Board.
- ◆ Conducted an inventory of boat launch speed limit signs.



Connecticut River at Brattleboro, Vermont



Connecticut River, Mt. Ascutney View

### **Wantastiquet**

Wantastiquet Subcommittee meets quarterly to discuss and act on a variety of river-related issues. Specific responsibilities include providing advice to Federal Agencies, NHDES, VANR and municipalities on matters pertaining to the river; reviewing and commenting on proposed permits and plans; and developing and periodically updating a corridor management plan.

In 2016, activities included:

- ◆ Submitted comments to FERC regarding bank ero-sion and the need for mitigation funds to assist property owners.
- ◆ Reviewed NH boat accesses and boat access maps for the NH Public Water Access Advisory Board.
- ◆ Conducted an inventory of boat launch speed limit signs and installed.

# **Connecticut River Joint Commissions - Commissioners FY2016**

## **Vermont**

### **Connecticut River Watershed Advisory Commission**

Rick Hopkins, VTANR  
 Chris Company, WRC  
 Jason Rasmussen, SWCRPC  
 Peter Gregory, TRORC  
 Alison Low, NVDA  
 Tara Bamford, E. Thetford  
 David Deen, Fisheries  
 Peter Blodgett, Thetford  
 Samuel Swope, Guildhall  
 Jameson Doig, Newbury  
 Kenneth Niemczyk, Woodstock  
 Steven Lembke, Guilford  
 Kurt Staudter, Springfield

## **New Hampshire**

### **Connecticut River Valley Resource Commission**

Marion Allen, UVLSRPC  
 Jennifer Griffin, Hydro Power  
 Elaine Levlocke, SWRPC  
 Jim McClammer, Charlestown  
 Brendan Prusik, Columbia, Forestry  
 Richard Sanders, Monroe, Agriculture  
 Mary Sloat, Hanover  
 Christopher Thayer, NCC  
 Richard Walling, Bath

### **FY 2016 CRJC Officers**

Richard Walling, President  
 Jason Rasmussen, Vice President  
 Mary Sloat, Treasurer  
 Steven Lembke, Secretary

## **Financial Report FY 2016 July 1, 2015—June 30, 2016**

