



## CRJC Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Windsor Welcome Center

7:00PM

### Meeting Minutes

Present:

Colleen O'Neill (Cornish)  
John Bruno (Charlestown)  
Cordelia Merritt (Hartland)  
Judy Howland (Hartland)  
Bill Manner (Springfield)  
Kelly Stettner (Springfield)  
Nancy Heatley (Weathersfield, Chair)  
Jim McClammer (CRJC)  
Alex Belenz (NCC)

1. Nancy Heatley opened the meeting at 7:05 and introductions were made.
2. Minutes: the minutes from July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 were approved by motion of Manner/Stetner with two spelling corrections for Jim McClammer's name. The minutes from September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 were approved by motion of Bruno/Merritt with several corrections:
  - a. The spelling of John Bruno's name in item #3 was corrected.
  - b. Item #6 was amended to correct the meeting that Bill had attended. "Phantom meeting" was changed to "attended a Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission Clean Water Advisory Committee meeting."
  - c. Item #6 was amended to correct the dragonfly species that was identified during the Black River Sweep. "Briazonia" was changed to "Bryozoa."
3. Permit reviews: Nancy opened the discussion of permits by recommending changes to the permit review procedures within the subcommittee. Other members of the subcommittee have considerable knowledge and expertise regarding permitting, so it would be helpful to be able to loop them into the review process. There also needs to be a strategy for reviewing permits that come up between the regularly scheduled meetings. One issue has been that paper copies of the permits are mailed to Nancy, with no digital copies available. Alex will follow up with NHDES to see if there are any digital application summaries or fact sheets that can be forwarded around to subcommittee members. If these are available, they can be shared with subcommittee members.

The discharge permit application for the Springfield municipal pool was discussed. The permit would be for the discharge of dechlorinated water into the Black River twice per year. Cordelia asked if there were any concerns over the dechlorination process. Bill replied that he didn't believe so. The subcommittee will reply to VTANR indicating they have no concerns over the application.

John indicated that he was not satisfied with NHDOT's response to his comments on the draft water quality certification the Route 12 reconstruction project. Comments regarding stormwater entry into the system, maintenance, location of the system in the freeze zone, existence of similar systems in New Hampshire or other similar climates, and soil data were not adequately addressed. Jim noted that the design was improved to some degree due to the work of CRJC, though there are still lingering concerns. Over \$1 million will be placed in the NH

Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund, and some of those funds could be used for water quality monitoring at the reconstruction site. It will be important to study the effectiveness of this system, since it has not been used in NH before, but could be used again for future projects. John wasn't sure if a monitoring program would be effective, since the Connecticut is a large river and there are already water quality issues around the site. NHDES' response to comments on the water quality certification can be viewed at <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/section401/documents/wqc-2017-404i-001-response-to-comments.pdf>.

4. Septic System Workshop Review: Nancy and Kelly provided a review of the Septic System Workshop that was held in September. There were 26 attendees, which was the largest-ever turnout for the event. The attendees were very active, and had many targeted questions for presenters. Attendees liked that they heard similar information from multiple presenters. The last two workshops were held in VT, so it was important to hold one in NH. The event was planned for 2.5 hours, and ended up being 3 hours total with all of the attendee's questions. The presenters thought it was the most successful workshop they'd been to (Steve from Septic Pro, Don Prince from Presby Environmental, and Graham Bradley from State of VT Wastewater Design Program).

Nancy recommended that other subcommittees look at doing a similar workshop – there are no shortage of subject-area experts, and the presenters typically cover the costs of the event. Next time, the workshop could be held at the Windsor Welcome Center, or at a more northern location. Next year, marketing from the private sector presenters should be more restricted (not a trade show). Kelly and a friend will be working to pull together a video and slides from the workshop, and will see if they can get the final product on local access television. Next year, there will be another septic workshop during EPA Septic Smart Week. Nancy has emails from attendees, and can use them help to get the word out about the next event. Kelly suggested that event be registered with EPA as well. Jim suggested that a similar workshop could be developed for wetlands.

5. The table top display materials are currently with Nancy, and are always available to use. Alex will follow up with Pat Crocker to see if it is preferable that they be stored at the UVLSRPC office. Nancy noted that it may be better to keep them with her, that way they can be accessed during weekends or other off-business hours.
6. Water Resource Chapter: Nancy asked the subcommittee about the easiest way to continue work on the Water Resources Chapter. Kelly suggested that the chapter be broken up into sections, with subcommittee members reviewing and commenting on a particular section in between meetings. Kelly will identify sections and set target dates for subcommittee members to complete their reviews. Kelly will be in charge of proofreading, and Nancy will work to compile the master version of the document. The document is currently set up in Google Sheets for shared access and easier navigation. Bill noted that ANR will be completing the Basin Plan for the Vermont side of the Connecticut River in December, which will be helpful.
7. Nancy will put some thought towards proposing a new name for the Household Non-Point Source materials to CRJC. Suggestions included "What You Can Do to Keep Your Rivers Clean." Alex will follow up to determine if more materials will be printed in the near future.
8. Other updates:
  - a. Kelly has been working on a local access show covering a number of topics on the Black River – wetlands, bogs, rain gardens, insect species, etc.
  - b. Alex alerted the committee to changes to the NHDES Shoreland Program. Kelly asked if there were similar changes coming in VT, Alex replied that he has not heard anything.
  - c. Members noted that Elise Angelillo may have stepped back from her position as Plainfield representative. Alex will follow up with Elise to confirm.
  - d. Cordelia recommended that subcommittee members read the Hidden Life of Trees.

9. The meeting dates for 2017 were set as January 9, March 13, May 8, July 10, September 11, and November 13. Alex will reach out to the Town of Windsor to schedule. Motion to adjourn made by Judy, Kelly seconded. All members approved to adjourn at 8:10.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alex Belenz.