

CRJC Headwaters Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 25, 2019

7:00PM

Colebrook Town Office

Ed Mellet (Groveton)  
Tom Caron (Canaan)  
Clayton Macdonald (Stratford)  
Ken Hasting (Columbia)  
Dale Covey (Groveton)  
Kevin McKinnon (Colebrook)

Jillian Kilborn (New Hampshire Fish and Game)  
Ken Edwardson (NH DES)  
Adam Ricker (UVLSRPC)

Meeting begins at 7:00PM

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Mellet started the meeting by announcing that two of the committee's members, John Amy and John Lanier, had passed way since their last meeting.

2. Presentation by Ken Edwardson of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

Ken Edwardson from NH DES gave the group a presentation on their Water Quality Assessment Program. The state is required to assess the water quality in water bodies every two years. A significant portion of the data is collected by volunteers. Mr. Edwardson walked the group through the data spreadsheet and the GIS program to view the data points for individual water bodies. Please see the attached copy of Mr. Edwardson's presentation for more details.

3. Presentation by Jillian Kilborn of New Hampshire Fish & Game

Ms. Kilborn made a presentation regarding a piece of property along the Connecticut River in Colebrook that NH Fish & Game has recently acquired in the Wildlife Management Area. The property consists of a large farm field that is accessed by a

crossing over a wetland adjacent to the river. The current crossing is an undersized culvert. Ms. Kilborn said that the new crossing would be increased in size to allow for more water to flow and to remove the crossing from the wetlands to reduce the impacts of the crossing.

The new crossing would be constructed of skidder panels on cement blocks/abutments. The total time that the crossing would be impassable would be 2-3 days. Committee Member Hastings requested that the work be coordinated to accommodate the farmers schedule for access, but he noted that a couple of days of construction should not be difficult to arrange. As part of the crossing improvement project, the buffer between the field and the river would be restored. The restoration would include the planting of Elms and other native species and would include work to remove invasive species prior to the replanting.

Ms. Kilborn discussed various efforts to reduce invasive species in and along the Connecticut River. She mentioned that Pittsburg has worked to reduce Japanese Knotweed by 85%. For the removal of the invasive plants, glyphosate with surfactant will be used and Ms. Kilborn requested that the committee provide an updated letter of support for the project.

Ken Hasting made a motion to support the permit for the crossing and related buffer restoration. The motion was seconded by Kevin McKinnon. The motion passed unanimously.

Edit – A motion was passed at the August 22, 2019 meeting to add the following comment in relation to the above motion. Hastings' motion did not support the pesticide application piece of the permit application. Hastings expressed concern in regards to the impact of glyphosphate on fish nursery habitat especially, but also other human and ecological health impacts. Hastings, Sayen and Macdonald expressed concern for the use of pesticides, preferring manual or mechanical methods.

#### 4. Approve Minutes from October 25, 2018

A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Kevin McKinnon and seconded by Ken Hasting. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 5. Permit Reviews

There were no new permits to comment on.

## **6. Other Business**

Tim Purrington of Great River Hydro discussed the recent flooding due to the runoff and snow melting. He shared that both Lake Francis and First Connecticut Lake still have a considerable amount of ice to thaw and snow to melt but that following the melting the river should return to the normal flows for this time of year. Mr. Purrington said that there is no scheduled dam maintenance at this point.

## **7. Attendance and new members**

The committee discussed the need for new members. A couple of suggestions were made for members from Columbia and Mr. Hasting agreed to approach them to see if they were interested in the position.

## **8. Adjourn**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40PM.

### **Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, July 25, 2018  
Colebrook Town Offices  
7:00-9:00PM**