

CRJC Headwaters Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 28, 2021
7:00PM
Conference Call

Pittsburg			Northumberland	Edwin Mellett	✓
Pittsburg	Alan R Williams		Northumberland	Dale Covey	
Colebrook	Kevin McKinnon		Bloomfield		
Colebrook			Bloomfield		
Stratford	Jamie Sayen		Lemington		
Stratford	Clayton Macdonald		Lemington		
Clarksville			Maidstone		
Clarksville			Maidstone		
Clarksville (alt)	Alan Karg		Canaan	Tom Caron	✓
Stewartstown			Canaan		
Stewartstown			Brunswick		
Columbia	Kenneth Hastings	✓	Brunswick		
Columbia	Lucas Deblois				

Ben Copans (VT DEC)

Frank Maloney (Regional Planner, NE VT RC)

Rob Christie (Lancaster, Riverbend LRS)

Deborah Noble (Concord, Riverbend LRS)

Olivia Uyizeye (Staff, UVLSRPC)

1. Welcome, Introductions & Review of Conference Call Tools and Public Meeting Guidelines

Chair Mellett called the meeting, conducted via conference call, to order at 7:07 PM under the emergency provisions of RSA 91-A, New Hampshire's Right-to-Know law, as allowed by Emergency Order 11 under Executive Order 2020-04 in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Uyizeye conducted a roll call of LRS members, invited any guests to introduce themselves, and welcomed all present. Uyizeye reviews zoom conference call features and how to reach her for technical assistance.

2. Presentation on the Draft VT Basin Plan for the Upper Connecticut River by Ben Copans (VT ANR)

Copans provides an overview of the Draft 2021 Upper Connecticut River Tactical Basin Plan using the story map presentation linked below.

The Draft 2021 Upper Connecticut River Tactical basin plan has been posted online at the following link: [Draft 2021 Upper Connecticut River Tactical Basin Plan](#)

A Story Map has also been developed that walks through key sections of the plan and is available at the following link: [Upper Connecticut River Story Map](#)

Additional comments by Copans. All items referenced found in the Upper Connecticut River Story Map.

- This basin includes all of the CT River Watershed above the Passumpsic.
- The basin plan is a 5 year planning cycle, with this plan currently in the public input phase
- Goal is to ensure our waters support important ecological values and public health.
- Projects highlighted in the plan are more likely to get funding. Over \$2 million was spent on projects in this watershed over past 5 years. See the online mapper for past project details.
- 2014 tactical basin plan had 31 strategies identified, since then 9 completed and 15 underway.

- Areas of focus over last 5 years: strategic wood addition, culvert replacements for AOP, restoration work around Maidstone Lake, dirt roads to assess and identify water quality issues. Agricultural projects especially with Essex county Natural resource district with a focus on nitrogen reductions. Interactive map showing projects over time.
- Identified sub watershed and amount of agriculture, as well as those following BMPs. A few have significant agricultural land but very few BMPs.
- A lot of high quality waters in this basin
- Restoring waters, especially maid stone Lake has been a big focus. 30 % increase in impervious surfacfe and 10% increase in phosphorus (significant) in less than a decade.
- Majority of CT river considered impaired for e-coli by state of NH
- Plan priorities
 - Looking to do more outreach and technical assistance with Ag to install BMPs. A lot of transition going on with farms in this basin. Could be a way to identify priority lands for wetlands and floodplain restoration as these transitions happen. Can happen quickly and trying to be proactive
 - Roads – mainly support for municipalities to advance assessment and improvement efforts. Also work with towns to purchase shared equipment.
 - Rivers – focus on floodplain forest restoration. One about local sources for native trees. Opportunities for floodplain updates and work with town floodplain regulations.
 - Lakes – Maidstone lake.
 - Wetlands – focus on restoration improvements.
 - Forests – identify potential areas for restoration from past work.
 - ** See story map for further details and priorities.*

Conversation follows:

- Hastings – Hall Stream, expresses concern about fine silts from logs floating and getting submerged in the stream that come with materials attached to the logs.
- Copans – stormwater requirement for some places that might be relevant to the site.
- Hastings – will take some pictures and share with Copans this upcoming summer to give more context. There is a canoe access just downstream of this site.
- Copans – work on stormwater is typically done on publicly owned sites but can work with privately owned in certain scenarios.
- Caron – great report. Very comprehensive. Asks about Wallace Pond that is an international water with Canada.
- Copans – Wallace Pond does not have a very active lake association so there has not been much coordination at this point. Pretty heavily developed area up in Quebec.

4. Meeting Minutes from June

Caron moves to accept the minutes. Hastings seconds. The motion passes unanimously by roll call vote.

5. Permit Reviews

a. Floodplain restoration project, Colebrook, NH

Permit was approved by NHDES. Hastings spoke with Rhodes about the permit and some specific concerns particularly a steep part of the bank.

6. Updates & Other Business

a. Commissioners Update

Hastings shares that Jim Kennedy has left his role as commissioner and Jim McClammer has reengaged with the CRJC as it pertains to the Great River Hydro FERC process. There has been conversation about a letter to be submitted to FERC in regards to concerns seen by CRJC. The strategic plan that was

completed in the Spring of 2020 is being actively worked on. Hastings has taken on a few assignments in this area.

b. Water Quality Grant

Uyizeye shares that the CRJC has received a \$5,000 grant to support water quality monitoring of the Connecticut River for 2021. The grant is awarded by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Environmental Opportunity Grant. Uyizeye explains that the work plan includes monitoring support for 2 LRS (Riverbend and Wantastiquet) who have been actively planning, additional lab testing for e-coli and nutrient analysis, and staff support for volunteer recruitment for all 5 LRS to support 2021 and 2022 activities.

Members indicate support to do volunteer outreach for the 2022 season during 2021. Caron and Hastings refer to contacts with local science programs and others who may be of interest to participate. Uyizeye will share a list of monitoring sites from NHDES as a starting point when considering future monitoring.

c. Riverwide Speaker Series

Uyizeye shares an update on the current series of 4 public events starting in March. The time was chosen that had the least conflict among LRS members. Video recordings of events will be available for a week after the presentation.

#1 River Paths for Wildlife

MARCH 23, 6-730PM

Dr. Dave Patrick with the Nature Conservancy will discuss how the Connecticut River offers a natural migration route for plants and animals; a capacity shown historically and with rising importance in response to climate change. Riparian areas — areas of habitat along the banks of rivers and streams — are known to be used by both and small mammals. These regions also benefit insects, birds and other species looking for cooler, moister terrain as conditions become less habitable.

Dr. Pam Hunt with NH Audubon will dive in deeper to how birds, especially waterfowl, benefit from the Connecticut River's landscape. Migration is a challenging journey for birds, made possible by healthy stop-over sites to rest and refuel along the way. Learn about some of our common birds migration habitats, why they do it and how they arrive here year after year.

#2 Future of Invasive Species Management

MAY 25, 6-730PM

Kimberly Jensen (VT DEC) and Amy Smagula (NH DES)

#3 A History of the Connecticut River

SEPTEMBER 28, 6-730PM

Adair Mulligan (Hanover Conservancy)

#4 Water Quality and Innovative Green Infrastructure

NOVEMBER 30, 6-730PM

Speaker TBD

d. Outreach Campaign – Public Article

Uyizeye thanks members for their outreach contributions. Uyizeye asks for members support in distribution and adopting a community where there is no active member.

Hastings mentions Chris Martin from Maidstone North as a potential speaker on eagles if someone is needed or in the future.

e. Other Business

Caron asks about NHDES Dam Bureau about the work that needs to be done at Murphy dam. Mellett responds that he has not heard anything since their past presentation. Caron says, and Hastings agrees, that some work was done on the gate and the pulley system. The work on the valves has not been done and those are the really dangerous thing. Hastings recommends contacting Ron Rhodes. Caron agrees to follow up and report back

8. Adjourn

Caron makes a motion to adjourn. Mellett seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.

DRAFT