



CT River Joint Commissions  
September 27, 2010  
Montshire Museum, Norwich, VT

Present: Glenn English, Tom Kennedy, George Watkins, Bob Christie, John Severance, Bob Harcke, Michaela Stickney, Cleve Kapala, Gayle Ottmann, Cheston Newbold, Bren Whittaker

Staff: Theresa Darling

Guests: Senator Bob Odell, Tom Berry – Senator Leahy’s Office, Randy Foose – NH House of Representatives, Rick Hopkins – VT ANR, Rebecca Brown – ACT, Sharon Francis, David Deen –CRWC, Rick Walling – LRS2 Chair, Marc White – LRS3 Chair, Kurt Staudter – LRS4 Chair, Jan Edick – LRS2 member, Sue Greenall and Todd Menees – Ottauquechee Natural Resources Conservation

Chair: Glenn English

10:00 am called to order.

### **Introductions.**

**Presentations** -Tom Berry from Senator Leahy’s office distributed copies of S117 Partnership bill. The bill authorizes the establishment of the Upper CT River Partnership Act which was introduced in the senate in 2009 by the NH and VT congressional delegation. The bill as it is written, calls for a 25% match. Glenn English asked if funding from either state would qualify for the match. Tom Berry answered that match could be state or local, in-kind or cash. Tom stated that he is working on a statement in the Congressional Record recognizing Sharon Francis for her long-standing conservation leadership.

**Minutes** – Bob Christie moved to accept the minutes of the July 26, 2010 CRJC meeting. Seconded by Bob Harcke. Unanimous.

**Finance Committee Membership** – Glenn stated that there should be at least 3 members and a maximum of 5 of the finance committee. Right now we have 4 members. Glenn is stepping down. We can put up to two more on but we can function with three. If you are interested let Glenn know.

**AP and AR** - Discussed and answered general questions.

**State Appropriations Update:** For New Hampshire, Glenn met with OEP personnel. It is scheduled for G & C on October 6. We have asked for \$7,500 up front since we have been working since July 1. There is every reason to believe that it will pass G & C. The balance will be paid on a re-imbusement basis that Theresa is primarily doing. For Vermont – Tom Kennedy submitted the application and it is now being processed. We cannot get any money upfront. Michaela Stickney stated that it should be wrapped up this week. VT ANR will cover the last three months for 25 % of the full amount. Tom stated that we are going to be able to use some for match on byway projects. Michaela added that \$6,000 would be to cover Theresa's (or staff) time.

**Office Proposal** – Glenn stated that the next year is a question mark and our sustainability is shaky. In the opinion of the Steering Committee, we cannot keep the Charlestown office open. We spent Friday cleaning out the office. It cost about \$1,000 a month to keep it going. We have two proposals to discuss. One is to allow Theresa to work out of her home office and the other is to move the office to Southern Windsor RPC which is cost free. Both are viable. The details will be discussed in non public session.

**Bylaw revision** – Bob Christie handed out Draft 6 of proposed bylaws and discussed them. Bob stated that CRJC needs to figure out what is the future of this organization long term. Bob stated that the bylaws in this draft are to define committees and to integrate themselves into management of CRJC. He and the others working on the bylaws also thought it necessary to put in staff structure and positions. They also feel we should expect a considerable amount from foundations that support CRJC state federal and foundational support. The third thing, we need to look at is how we pay staff. Staff should be paid hourly as an alternative to salary. The two documents are works in progress. Bren added that the five subcommittees are strong and eager and they are the eyes and ears of the river. Cleve Kapala commented that Bob has done a great job. Glenn stated #1, that we are basically going to be out of the byway business, back to river and watershed. #2 we are exploring our home in OEP and looking at the DES as host agency instead even though the OEP has been great. It is important that we address this at our next meeting. Glenn told the LRS's that we value their input as well. Glenn thanked them all for working hard, and stated that the By-law draft will be an evolving document. We will look at this again in the future. Rick Walling stated that we might consider development, and might want to give it another couple of lines. Sharon Francis suggested adding that committees might do some of the work for agendas, minutes etc. in the staff outline.

10:45 CRJC meeting was recessed and the NH Commission called to caucus. Cheston Newbold moved to accept the minutes of the July 26, 2010 meeting, seconded by Cleve Kapala. Unanimous.

10:47 NH Commission adjourned. CRJC meeting was reconvened.

**Support of LRS:** Glenn stated that CRJC is very happy to see three LRS chairs attending the meeting. He stated that we have assigned two commissioners for each area to help

with running meetings and communications. He wanted to bring LRS' up to date and take input on how we can help them. He would like to have input from the LRS's. We will copy them on steering committee meeting minutes. Marc White stated that it would be useful to know which commissioners are assigned to me and he feels that CRJC could do more. He feels they have no guidance. Bren Whitaker feels CRJC could do more.

Glenn recognized Sen. Bob Odell and thanked him for coming.

Bob Christie would like to get an agenda for each LRS area and commissioners are invited to attend. Bob recognized that former staff was holding it together. Bob stated that the LRS's have achieved national importance and many watersheds have used our management plans. Glenn stated that they are the connection to our local towns and interests and that the average person has limited knowledge of what CRJC does. The key is engaging the public. Rick Walling stated that Adair was the continuity up and down the river. Without Adair they (LRS's) have to do a lot of the work. He is looking at permits now and didn't have to before. Rick added that the main thing that needs to happen is to let people know that we are still alive. Some have heard that we are falling apart. There needs to be a lot of contact. Kurt Stauder stated that they worked very hard on the management plans and they are ready to work. If CRJC wants them to start holding meetings than let the LRS' know. Nat Tripp stated that Mary Sloat is scheduling a meeting next week and will assign commissioners to subcommittees and get it together. Jan Edick added that the thing that has impressed him most about the subcommittee is the variety of people who are on it. The staff had the skills to make use of what was there. They need someone to help and put it together. Glenn stated that CRJC doesn't have staff right now, we hope to in the future. Bren added that we have to keep in touch. Bob Harcke thanked Bob Odell for coming and stated that we need to look at NH and VT to help retain some form of staff or basically we have no reason to exist. We really need help. Glenn added that we need to have state money to sustain us and if the state is not willing he is not going to continue giving his time as a volunteer. Bob Christie stated that we are contributing for satisfaction, and he agrees with Glenn. Bob stated that the state legislature needs to step up. Cheston would also like to thank Rep. Randy Foose for coming. Glenn stated that our staff cost is about \$30,000, we don't have match, we don't have cash flow, and we have basic financial issues. We are constantly starved for cash. We need cash to pay our bills. It is very critical to get sustainable. Kurt Stauder asked what about National Grid and TransCanada, since they are making a lot off money on our river. Glenn stated that we need state support and they need to be giving us more money, its not enough. Bob Christie stated that John Tucker felt that the CT River valley should be separate region. The CT River valley is great source of tourist money. We need to promote this as a region in the State of NH. It would be a great move forward if we were known as a region. Cleve Kapala commented that he is hopeful that the byway will begin to recognize that. Tom Kennedy thanked the legislators and stated that we need to take the responsibility to raise money. He disagrees that it is the state's responsibility. Nat Tripp stated that the byway recognizes that the LRS needs more in the bylaws and would like to see the byway integrated in that. Gayle thanked Dean Eastman and John LaBarge for giving us a lot of assistance. Rick Walling thanked Nat for letting people know that we are still alive and he thinks it is important that we have regularly scheduled

meetings. Glenn states that if there aren't volunteer commissioners for each LRS area, he will make assignments. Nat will circulate the lists when done. Todd Menees would like to get on the mailing list to attend the LRS meetings. Bren Whitaker discussed the main use of the watershed is dairy land and without the working farms we will lose the watershed.

**MOU with Byway Council:** Nat discussed the proposed MOU between CRJC and the Byway Council. Nat discussed the three byway contracts between the CRJC and NH and VT

1. Supporting project grants – This is the State of NH grant that includes the website. He would like to compete that and both states have added a match. He wants to make sure that the Byway Council has rights to the information.
2. Corridor plan implementation seed grant. Theresa can work on that also. He wants to make sure that the information rights are continued to the Byway Council.
3. Itineraries – Not much work has been done yet. He would like to continue that if possible.

Nat stated that the gist of the M.O.U. has to do with rights to information and that the Byway Council was created by CRJC initially. We would like to have rights and continue to work on these grants. Glenn stated that from the CRJC point of view, it is critical that our staff person is included in these grants to help fund the CRJC. Nat stated that it has to be approved by the attorneys general of each state. Tom Kennedy stated that the Byway Council is looking for other organizations to absorb the match, because the match is the problem. Gayle moved to approve the MOU pending approval by the attorneys general. Seconded by Bren Whittaker. Unanimous.

**Financial bank signatures** – Nat moved to update bank financials to delete signatures of Nancy, Bev and Sharon and to add Glenn. George seconded. Unanimous.

**Public comment-** Sharon Francis asked if CRJC going to have an audit. Glenn answered that there is no funding at this time. Sharon asked how CRJC is going to pay the NHCF. Glenn replied that we do not have it all in hand but are keeping up with an agreed payment schedule. Sharon suggested that NH permit applications which are now sent to CRJC for comment might be more efficient if sent directly to the LRS chairs.

12:00 George moved to go into non-public session. Tom Kennedy seconded. Roll-call vote was unanimous.

12:30 Cheston moved to come out of non-public session. Seconded by Tom. Unanimous. No motions were made, no action taken and the minutes are to be sealed.

Cheston moved to relocate the CRJC office to Theresa's home office and to authorize Glenn to negotiate a contract with Theresa. Seconded by George. Unanimous.

12:37 Meeting was adjourned.