



**CRJC Meeting Minutes
November 22, 2010
Lebanon City Hall, Lebanon, NH**

Present:

Commissioners: Glenn English, Tom Kennedy, Peter Gregory, George Watkins, John Severance, Bob Christie, Nat Tripp, Beverly Major, Gayle Ottmann, Cleve Kapala, Bren Whittaker, Steve Long, Chris Campany, Janet Rebman

Staff: Theresa Darling

Guests: Rick Hopkins-VT ANR, John Labarge-VTrans, Steve Couture-NHDES, Mary Daley-LRS3, Carol Colier-LRS3, Bernie Folta

Chair: Tom Kennedy

10:00am

Tom added extensions for the Colebrook project grants to the agenda.

Peter Gregory stated that the Colebrook project is underway, the Moose Plate and Fish and Game portions are pass throughs. They both expire 12/ 31/2010. A vote is needed for extensions of these grants for two years. Bren asked if there is any money to offset CRJC admin costs. Peter answered no. Bren commented that our relations in Colebrook for the project are still good. Glenn said that North Country Council is seeking additional funds to fill the funding gap.

Peter moved that the Steering Committee be authorized to execute any documents necessary to file the extensions. John Severance seconded. Unanimous.

Introductions

Presentation by David Deen. Rescheduled.

Minutes of September 27, 2010. George pointed out some typos. George moved to accept with corrections. Cleve Kapala seconded. Unanimous.

AR and AP. Theresa stated that we received EPA and VTrans today. CRJC has cut the expenses dramatically. Bren questioned about John Fields' additional invoices. Peter

stated that on the AMMO grant we only have the NHDES portion to pay Fields and ACT. Peter has notified Fields and Rebecca Brown that all CRJC has available are the NHDES portions. Peter has asked them to scale back the work where they could and then we will have a meeting to see if we can get the job completed on the remaining funds. Bev Major asked about repayment to NH Charitable. Peter answered that there is a remaining balance of \$4000.

Transfer of Itineraries: Tom turned the Meeting over to Glenn English for this subject. The Itineraries grant is ready to be shifted to the Byway Council. Nat said that there were three contracts that the CRJC has signed on behalf of the Byway Council. These are contracts between VTrans and the State of NH and CRJC. One of the things that makes these contracts difficult for CRJC to administer is that they work on reimbursement basis. The biggest grant is the Itineraries. Since we are lacking cash for the match, the By-way Council and CRJC decided to speak with a number of RPCs to see who is willing to take over administration of the grant. Southern Windsor RPC is willing to take over the grant. John Labarge from VTrans agrees. We need a motion to sign the appropriate documents. CRJC will be administering the balance of the seed grant. Bev asked that since this grant was going to be the grant that was supposedly going to make us money, when did it change to being a problem. Also, how would a local RPC be able to document history up and down the river? Glenn answered that the Byway Council and CRJC adjusted the tasks in the grant to make it more relevant. Peter said that the biggest problem is that the CRJC does not have the match. John Labarge said that there are two main factors for the match; one is that CRJC couldn't come up with the match in cash. The other is that they no longer have the required staff. The RPC can subcontract the work. VTrans gave CRJC time to go forward. Tom stated that he is not guaranteeing that SWCRPC can absorb the whole match. They would be requiring help from other RPC's. Gail Ottmann said the pieces have been shifted around. We are hoping that we can get the waypoints to contribute to the effort.

Nat moved to terminate the grant from CRJC and assign it to SWCRPC. Gail seconded. Unanimous, Tom abstained. John Labarge brought the termination notice to be signed.

Authorization for the Steering Committee to contract with personnel. Glenn said that CRJC is in a position to use some of the state grant money to start programming again. That has been the goal once we got through the funding crises. Tom said that the Steering Committee would like to have permission to contact people to work on some projects. Cleve asked about doing an RFP. Tom said that there is not any time and we haven't used a formal process in the past. Bev asked about what programming were you thinking of? Tom said EPA, LRS, and Byway. Bren asked if these grants already exist and is this to get the jobs done? Tom answered yes. Glenn added also that programming personnel could also seek additional grant opportunities.

Mary Daley from LRS3 said that she is willing to help with grants free of cost. Glenn said that they have been in contact with the LRS chairs, and we will be talking about future administrative support. He is trying to set up meetings of the LRS's in December to do this.

Gail moved to authorize the Steering Committee to proceed with contracting personnel. Cleve seconded. Unanimous.

Continued Discussion of Proposed New Bylaws. Bob Christie said that at the last SC meeting they discussed the committee worksheet. Several commissioners have taken the committee assignment of bringing in more commissioners to take part in what is going on. Many commissioners have found that they are not involved. He said that they have had many suggestions on the proposed bylaws. Bev said that the committee idea is an excellent idea. Bev had a question on the mission statement. A mission statement is one sentence of what a commission does. What is shown here is a list of tasks. Bev suggested that we put in the statement what was in the strategic plan and have this list be called goals or purpose. Bev will email that to Bob. Glenn said there is a process in the present By-laws on how to amend the bylaws. Tom said that we should add it to the next agenda. Bev said that the proposed executive committee is a little fuzzy, and thinks if you went back to the previous bylaws it may be reconsidered. Tom said that they are not prepared today to go line by line. Gail said that the new bylaws will be an amendment to the old. Bren said that he is delighted to hear this and thinks that the commissions are doing excellent work. Bren said he is excited and encouraged that this commission is acting as a commission. Glenn wants everyone to be aware that the success of the CRJC is going to require a big commitment from the commissioners. Glenn added that if he could pick one commissioner that has been going above and beyond in the day to day affairs, it is Peter. The new By-laws discussion will be continued on the January 24 agenda.

Recess for NH Commission Caucus. Glenn recessed the CRJC Meeting and called a caucus of the NHRVRC into session. The NHRVRC discussed progress on filling the empty seats. Glenn said that we need to communicate with Cheston who has been leading this. Glenn said that they have talked about switching the state funding source from NHOEP to NHDES and that NHDES has given us a commitment to accept us and will put \$50,000 into their budget request for CRJC. Glenn reported that OEP seemed really nervous about the next state budget. Bob moved to go forward with the change. Cleve seconded. Unanimous.

Glenn adjourned the NHRVRC Caucus and reconvened the CRJC Meeting.

Commissioner assignments for LRS and Watershed Grant. Nat, John and Mary Sloat met, and concluded that it did not seem realistic for commissioners to provide staff support to the LRS's. They suggest hiring a river coordinator. There would be one pair of eyes on everything such as minutes and announcements. This has been very important to the Commissions. Glenn said he thinks the function could be part of the other position we were talking about. He thinks we need to keep commissioners involved. Tom said Adair did a great job, but CRJC can't afford that type of work right now. Tom thinks it is important to have a staff person to help and assist. Glenn said that the person should come to our meetings and talk about what the subcommittees are doing. CRJC can't expect the same type of detail that we got from Adair. Tom said there has to be

commissioner working with LRS chairs. Carol Colier said she thinks it would be good to ask the chairs to volunteer to come to the meetings and report and thinks they would be willing to do that. Bren said he trusts there is consensus that the LRS's are the heart and soul of the organization.

Friends of Conte Representative: The Friends of Conte group needs a representative from CRJC. Bren has volunteered. Glenn moved to accept Bren as the Friends of Conte representative. Bev seconded. Unanimous.

Public Comment. Carol Colier has concerns about the Friends of Hanover's 180 foot long dock. She feels that the issue is fuzzy with the commissions and with the subcommittees in disarray, managers of Hanover have been given a lot of bias info on the subject. There is some concern whether it has been approved by DES or not. Carol discussed her concern with the Commissions. Glenn asked Steve Couture from NHDES if the LRS has commented and where are we on this project? Glenn asked Carol if the LRS had acted on the project. Carol said that they voted to support it but now we are hearing that that the application has been changed. Glenn said that each LRS reviews permits, not the CRJC. Nat said that he talked about it with Adair, and the LRS did initially approve the project but then there were changes. Carol said that they told the LRS it would be two months use but now it is March to December. Cleve said he thinks that the advisory role that the LRS's play is important, but CRJC does not have the expertise to thoroughly review all the permits. Bob said that this is an example of the local knowledge making decisions. Steve Couture said the permit was approved on Friday, but there is an appeal process. Glenn said that is another reason the LRS should meet in December so that they could discuss an appeal. Theresa will send CRJC minutes to subcommittees.

Steve Couture discussed NHDES' relationship with CRJC. He said he is really encouraged to hear the commitment to the local subcommittees. He uses the CRJC as a good model for other watersheds. He is available to the CRJC as a resource. He said it is also an opportunity to put together the bylaws and see how the Commissions is going to work with the LRS's to further define within the statute. Steve said that Steve Landry wanted to thank Theresa and Peter, and that given the circumstances the follow through was impressive. Steve said that he will be the legislative lead on CRJC's state attachment. He is available as a resource and ready to assist. Glenn said that \$50,000 is a ball park estimate of our request. \$30,000 was the state support in 2010. He said it just makes sense for CRJC to be with NHDES. CRJC thanked Steve for his service overseas.

Bernie Folta commented on the Sugar River watershed to Steve Couture.

Cleve said that VT and NH statutes don't align perfectly at this time. There is time to do this, if CRJC wants to tinker on the language front. Glenn asked Cleve if he is willing to sit with Steve and come up with a draft. Tom said that Rick Hopkins is here from VT so if they are going to change maybe VT can be in on it too.

Bernie Folta commented on LSR submitted by Senator Odell relative to the CRJC..

Next meeting of the CRJC will be January 24th at Montshire Museum at 10am.

Adjourned