

# **UPPER VALLEY RIVER SUBCOMMITTEE**



## MEETING MINUTES Monday, March 19, 2012

Members Present: Lynn Bohi, Jim Kennedy, David Kotz, Cy Severance, Linda Matteson, Steve Stocking, Carl Schmidt, Joan Monroe, Marc White (Chair)

Also Present: Rachel Ruppel, CRJC/UVLSRPC, Larry Gatto, Town of Fairlee

Introductions were made. Larry Gatto from Fairlee is attending to learn more about the organization, as Mary Daly will no longer serve as Fairlee's representative to the UVRSC.

Marc White and Joan Monroe reported on the New Hampshire Local River Advisory Committee training held 3/9/12. Marc reviewed some of the recent changes to the Shoreland Protection Act, now called the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act, which relax many requirements and reduce fines, and focused on the importance for the local committees to serve as NHDES's eyes and ears. NHDES has a short 30-day timeframe to issue most permits, and has provided draft guidance to local committees on how best to provide their comments.

To provide timely comment to NHDES on Shoreland permit applications, Marc suggested that the UVRSC consider setting a monthly meeting date and creating a permit review subgroup – after much discussion, the UVRSC agreed to set the third Monday of every month as a meeting date, but that meetings on even-numbered months would only be held if pressing business required a meeting. Rachel will let everyone know 10 days in advance if the meeting will be held. Also, Marc and Jim volunteered to serve on the permit review subgroup, with a third member from the relevant town where the permit application is located.

Marc also shared another recommendation - to focus on outreach. He suggested that the UVRSC consider an outreach subcommittee – no resolution was reached to establish one. However, the UVRSC discussed ideas including:

- Getting information/brochures into town offices and libraries
- Members staffing a CRJC booth at community events
- Coordinating with Selectboards to distribute information to new riverfront landowners

For the April meeting, UVRSC members have the homework of creating a list of who should receive the information (on Shoreland laws, riparian buffers, stormwater management, etc.) and how UVRSC should get it to them.

### Permit Review:

Lynn asked about stormwater permits for the Maxfield property in Hartford. Rachel reported that CRJC had not received notification about these. UVRSC members recommended that CRJC should request all VT permits be reviewed by local subcommittees.

UVRSC reviewed a wetlands permit application for the Route 4 bridge in Lebanon and Hartford and stated concerns over bridge runoff going into the river and the fate of the historic stone bridge abutments. UVRSC reviewed a wetlands permit application for a culvert replacement on Route 10 in Lebanon and stated concern over the passage of aquatic organisms and switching from a box culvert to a round culvert. Due to the complexity of these applications, the permit review subgroup will review these in detail and formulate a response. Rachel will contact NHDES to notify them of UVRSC's intent to comment on these applications.

UVRSC discussed the wastewater discharge permit renewal for the Town of Hartford. Lynn reported that the Town passed a municipal bond last year to improve the treatment plant. She further stated that this is a 10-year renewal. UVRSC declined to provide comment on this permit application.

David reported that the Town of Lyme passed its bond to repair River Road after an hour-long discussion. Rachel reported that all permits have been granted and all questions posed by UVRSC were addressed by the applicant to the satisfaction of NHDES.

Rachel reported that she received an Alteration of Terrain application for an expansion of the Lebanon landfill today. Rachel will contact NHDES to notify them of UVRSC's intent to comment. UVRSC will review this at their April meeting.

Rachel reported that the Wilder Dam relicensing process (also Vernon and Bellows Falls) is expected to begin Fall 2012. Steve commented that he has observed higher water levels, particularly at the stone culvert near Lake Morey, as well as agricultural fields in Newbury, VT, that have experienced crop losses.

#### Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held April 23, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the Latham Memorial Library. Rachel will confirm that the meeting space is available.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.