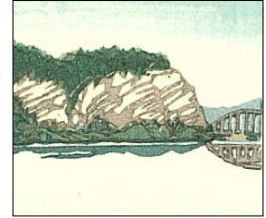


Upper Valley River Subcommittee

New Hampshire – Piermont, Orford, Lyme, Hanover, Lebanon
Vermont -- Bradford, Fairlee, Thetford, Norwich, Hartford



Meeting Minutes—April 23, 2012

Members Present: Marc White, Steve Stocking, Lynn Bohi, Carl Schmidt, David Kotz, Helga Mueller, Jim Kennedy, John Mudge, Linda Matteson, Cy Severance, Sue MacKenzie, Larry Zotto, and Rachel Ruppel, staff consultant

Marc White called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Marc welcomed new members John Mudge, Sue MacKenzie and Larry Gatto to the Subcommittee. Introductions were made. Marc asked for a vote of thanks for Cy Severance of Thetford who has served 11 years on the Subcommittee and Mary Daly of Fairlee who has also served many years on the Subcommittee. Both have recently resigned to pursue other interests.

Steve moved to accept the minutes of March 19, 2012, with a second by Cy—all in favor.

CRJC Commissioners' Update: Rachel provided an update on the CRJC strategic planning effort—she will send the draft plan to all subcommittee members to ask for their input. Helga asked if CRJC's focus is just on the river, or the tributaries and lakes upstream. The Subcommittee discussed that the Subcommittee has the responsibility to review NH state permit applications within 1/4-mile of the river; Jim added that local Conservation Commissions review NH state permit applications for tributaries and other waterbodies. CRJC's focus is on the river, but it was noted that tributaries affect the river as well. Linda noted that the Subcommittee should work with other groups that are focused on tributaries or lakes and not try to duplicate their efforts.

Rachel also provided an update on the revision of Subcommittee rules of procedure—she reported that each Subcommittee has its own, different set of procedures and that CRJC is working on creating one set to be incorporated into the CRJC bylaws. Pressing issues have been the process for nominating and appointing new members, defining a quorum, and replacing non-participating members. CRJC's goal is to present these procedures for adoption at the June 2012 annual meeting; Rachel will circulate the proposed amendments to the Subcommittee for their comments in May.

Permit Review: Jim presented his review of the Route 4 bridge replacement in Lebanon/Hartford, which the Subcommittee had started to review at the March meeting. There are old abutment stones and granite blocks that may have historic importance and could be reused. There seems to be a trail or access road under the bridge on the NH side, which could provide access to a new riverfront park. There are two stormwater pipes that appear to drain directly into the river, and several Subcommittee members questioned why all stormwater would not be treated or filtered. Jim also noted that a landscaping plan has not been



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provided. Rachel will prepare a comment letter and send to NHDES.

Jim presented his review of the Route 10 culvert replacement in Lebanon for the outlet of Boston Lot Lake. The Subcommittee had stated their concern over fish passage through the culvert at the March meeting. Jim visited the site and noted that there is a large vertical drop over ledge on both sides of the road, and that fish passage is not feasible due to the topography. Jim noted that the existing culvert headwall have eroded and that this culvert would improve the situation. Rachel will prepare a comment letter and send to NHDES.

Rachel presented a new permit application for an expansion to the Lebanon landfill, located between the existing landfill and the transfer station. This expansion is in an area that has been used for a borrow pit, and the landfill will be lined and have a leachate collection system installed. Stormwater will be captured and treated in two treatment basins, one at the north end and one at the south end. The landfill expansion is located on high ground above the floodplain. The Subcommittee had no comments or questions.

Discussion on Outreach: Marc presented and the Subcommittee discussed several ideas about who should receive information on best practices for Shoreland management, including new riverfront landowners, real estate agents, planning commissions and zoning boards, as well as zoning administrators and building inspectors (whoever issues the building permits). Carl noted that Orford's Board of Selectmen had previously sent letters to all new Shoreland landowners to inform them about State regulations. The Subcommittee discussed that having good, up-to-date information on the web is also very important. Carl suggested that the Subcommittee identify 5-10 key publications that all towns should have, and work to keep updated copies at town offices or on town websites. The Subcommittee also discussed keeping the flyers on public boat launch kiosks up-to-date, or posting web addresses to information on the Connecticut River Boating Guide or invasive species. Linda reported that Vermont has permits.vermont.gov for environmental permitting information, and that Vermont's permit specialists do provide updates to town offices.

Invasive Species Volunteer Training: Rachel reported that New Hampshire Rivers Council is planning to hold 5 training workshops for their volunteer River Runners program where volunteers document where invasive species are growing. The Rivers Council has asked CRJC and its Subcommittees if they'd like to co-sponsor a training in the Upper Valley, which would involve suggesting sites and dates for the training and helping to get the word out. The Subcommittee agreed that this would be a good idea and suggested several sites or other organizations who may be interested. Rachel will pass this information onto NH Rivers Council and be in touch with the Subcommittee when the workshop is scheduled.

Carl gave an update on the Orford Boat Launch project, which has just started construction. NH Fish and Game has an ongoing program to upgrade boat launches, and the upgrade to the Orford boat launch has been a decade in the making. The Subcommittee had many comments about the initial design of the upgrades, and Carl reported that many of their concerns have been addressed and there are many improvements to the site design. He also reported that there is a current issue about the contractor removing loam from the site, which the Board of Selectmen is addressing, and noted that the Town of Orford will need to address the maintenance of the pervious parking lot.

Marc scheduled the next meeting for June 18th at 7 pm at the Latham Memorial Library.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Rachel Ruppel, Staff Consultant