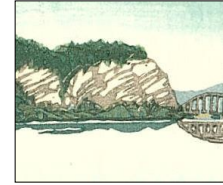


# **UPPER VALLEY RIVER SUBCOMMITTEE**



## MEETING MINUTES MONDAY SEPT 19 2011

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

Also Present: Peter Holden, Holden Engineering; Rachel Ruppel, CRJC/UVLSRPC

Introductions were made with a brief discussion of the consequences of Hurricane Irene. Extensive damage was reported in Hartford/White River Junction, West Lebanon shopping plazas and Orford. In Hanover, the river was drawn down in the last week, which allowed some bank stabilization work to be completed.

Minutes from the June 20, 2011 meeting were approved as written.

Joan Monroe reported that she is now a Commissioner to the CRJC, appointed by Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. She reported that the CRJC met today, and reported on items of interest for the UVRSC – review of the monthly financial reports, discussion regarding subcommittee bylaws and communication between the CRJC and subcommittees, and the development of a mission statement. Joan also noted that there are a few events coming up: listening sessions for the NH State Recreation Plan on October 5<sup>th</sup> and a boat tour in Northfield, MA to learn about riverbank restoration on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. Joan reported that Jay Aube from NH DES made a presentation on recent changes to the Shoreland Protection Act.

Rachel Ruppel introduced herself and explained the current staffing situation at CRJC to assist local river subcommittees. Three regional planners are working with the subcommittees to take the administrative burden of the chairs, particularly meeting notices, minutes and logistics as well as writing permit review letters. Tara Bamford of North Country Council is working with LRS 1 and 2, Rachel is working with LRS 3 and 4, and John Bennett of Windham Regional Commission is working with LRS 5.

Peter Holden briefed the subcommittee on the Town of Lyme's study of River Road and possibilities for riverbank stabilization. In May 2011, 1,000 feet of the roadway showed signs of serious riverbank undermining and the road has been closed since then. Holden Engineering was hired to investigate the extent of the damage and designs for stabilizing the road and bank. Last week, the Town held a public meeting, well-attended by ~100 people.

It is not possible to simply relocate the road inland, as there is a conservation easement on one of the properties, which does not allow development. The riverbank is very steep and composed of fine silts, prone to erosion when saturated. A first step taken already was to cut the trunks of dangerous trees, leaving the root ball intact, so that the trees would not fall into the river and tear out sections of bank.

Holden Engineering has prepared a proposed stabilization using stone fill at the base of the excavation, then a 1.5:1 slope of riprap overplanted with shrubs, and a guardrail at the top of the slope. The road would need to be moved inland. A 1:1 slope was not recommended by the geotechnical engineer.

The Town intends to propose several options at Town Meeting for a vote. The cost ranges from \$42,000 for closing the road to \$1 million to build a 2-lane paved road (18-ft-wide). The cost of the bank stabilization is \$750,000.

The UVRSC noted that there should be a transition between the armored bank and the natural bank. The UVRSC asked if other areas of River Road were also prone to erosion; Peter Holden reported that there are many other places prone to erosion and that the Town intends to develop a proactive plan addressing this.

#### Permit Review:

River Road in Hanover – addition to a residence, 3 bedrooms to 4 bedrooms

The UVRSC reviewed this permit and noted that the project is under the limit of 20% coverage of impervious surface. A question was raised about whether a septic permit had already been issued; Rachel will follow up with NHDES on this.

#### Floating Dock in Hanover –

The UVRSC reviewed a permit to place a floating dock anchored to the shore by a chain connected to a concrete pad. The location is upstream of the Chieftain dock. A question was raised about whether the concrete pad is considered a structure within the 50-ft setback; Rachel will follow up with NHDES on this.

The UVRSC discussed how to review permits when a meeting has not been scheduled. As Rachel is available to help with this, Rachel can send out the permit materials for review and request comments be sent directly to her to be included in a letter to NHDES.

Jim Kennedy has been appointed to the NH Wetlands Council.

The next meeting date is November 21, 2011. The UVRSC will meet the third Monday of every other month.