

Partnership Program Awards \$85,000

PROJECTS investigating water quality, providing new river access, restoring riverbanks and trails, conserving key lands, and educating residents and visitors about the region are among the recipients of this year's Connecticut River Joint Commissions Partnership grants.

CRJC selected 26 locally-inspired projects from throughout the Connecticut River watershed to receive the partnership grants, which total \$85,000 (the list appears on pages 6-7).

Awards were presented June 15 at the Coolidge Hotel in White River Junction, Vt. The award-winning projects respond to recommendations of CRJC's Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan and/or support

goals of the Connecticut River Scenic Byway.

"The Connecticut River Joint Commissions believe strongly in supporting local civic talent and enabling projects that safeguard the natural, agricultural, and historic resources of our valley," said CRJC Executive Director Sharon Francis.

The selection process has always been highly competitive. This year, 51 applicants requested more than three times the available funds. Francis acknowledged the leadership of U.S. Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) in securing the congressional appropriation for the Commissions' Partnership Program, which has long been supported by the two-state delegation
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Communications, Conservation Directors Named

CRJC has increased its staff, marking a significant step in the growth of the commissions' ability to work with communities and provide science-based public education about the river and the region.

Rebecca Brown of Sugar Hill, N.H. has been hired as the new communications director. Adair Mulligan has a new role as the commissions' first conservation director, and Administrative Assistant Barbara Harris becomes office manager.

"Increasingly, public agencies and the public at large look to the Connecticut River Joint Commissions for sound information and advice," said Executive Director Sharon Francis.

Brown will create a communications strategy for CRJC, and will oversee its public education work, press relations, and publications. She brings communications expertise, conservation experience, and a business background to her new position. She was formerly editor of The Courier newspaper of Littleton,
continued on page 2



Members of the press, the public, and state officials gather at the Windsor-Cornish covered bridge on Aug. 3 at the beginning of a tour of the Connecticut River Scenic Byway sponsored by CRJC and the Byway Council. N.H. Gov. John Lynch, Vt. Gov. Jim Douglas, and N.H. Executive Council members toured southern stretches of the Byway.

New Directors, continued



Left to right: Rebecca Brown, Adair Mulligan, Barbara Harris and Sharon Francis.

N.H., and is a widely known, award-winning journalist and author of *Women on High: Pioneers of Mountaineering* (AMC Books, 2002). She has served on the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission and is a founding member of the Ammonoosuc

Conservation Trust, the first locally-based land trust in New Hampshire's North Country. She has also worked in investment banking and in government, and started and operated a business renovating historic homes.

Adair Mulligan of Lyme, N.H., a CRJC employee since 1992, moves from managing communications to becoming the organization's first conservation director. Mulligan

will continue facilitating the work of the five bi-state local river subcommittees that advise CRJC and state agencies on developments that may affect the Connecticut River. In her new position she will be able to turn her attention to supporting communities and property owners interested in protecting historic, scenic, and natural features of the valley, and will serve as liaison with conservation and historic preservation organizations active in the watershed. She will also manage CRJC's science-oriented programs.

The appointment of Brown and Mulligan to their new roles represents a major step in the growth and evolution of CRJC, according Francis. "We are thrilled to add someone of Rebecca Brown's caliber to focus and expand our ability to provide a range of public communications," she said. "At the same time, Adair Mulligan's many talents will be applied to facilitating conservation of the distinctive scenic, historic, and natural resources of the Connecticut River Valley." 🌿

Biodiversity Workshops

Are you a landowner?

Land manager?

Learn about best practices at free biodiversity workshops.

Sponsored by the New England Wildflower Society

SHRUBLANDS

Sept. 24, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Cardigan Mountain 4H Clubhouse, Rt. 4, Canaan, N.H.

AREA SENSITIVE CARNIVORES AND YOUR FOREST

Oct. 22, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Location TBA

For more information, call 508-877-7630 or see www.newfs.org

New Commissioners Join CRJC

NEW HAMPSHIRE Gov. John Lynch has appointed Denise Meadows of Keene and John Severance of Whitefield to serve on the N.H. Connecticut River Valley Resource Commission.

CRJC's Connecticut River Byway program, a substantial economic development initiative that promotes cultural and natural heritage tourism, will benefit greatly from Meadows' expertise.

Meadows is the general manager of the E. F. Lane Hotel in Keene. She is a certified Granite State Ambassador, president of the Monadnock Travel Council, and a board member of Center Stage New Hampshire.

Severance is co-owner of Watershed to Wildlife, Inc., a consulting firm that assists communities and private landowners with natural resources issues.

A former logger and a public works coordinator, Severance has practical, professional experience with many of the issues related to one of the legislative mandates of CRJC—to guide growth and development in the Connecticut River Valley.

He is a member of the Whitefield Fire Department, and has served as a Coös County Conservation District supervisor, and on the White Mountain Regional District Board of Education. 🌿

English, Ottmann Elected CRJC Chairs

GLENN English of Haverhill, N.H. has been re-elected as chair of the N.H. Connecticut River Valley Resource Commission, and Gayle Ottmann of Quechee, Vt. has been elected as chair of Vermont's Connecticut River Watershed Advisory Commission. Together, the two commissions form the CRJC.

English will serve as president of CRJC. Town manager of Haverhill since 1995, he represents municipal interests on the commissions. He has been an advocate for economic development through heritage tourism on both sides of the Connecticut River, and is a member of the board of North Country Council.

As executive director of the Hartford Area

Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Hartford Board of Selectmen, Ottmann offers a strong voice for tourism and municipal government on the commissions.

Ottmann replaces Gary Moore of Bradford. Beverly Major of Westminster is the newly elected vice chair of the Vermont commission, and Moore has moved to the role of secretary/treasurer.

Cleve Kapala of Hopkinton, director of government affairs and relicensing for Trans-Canada Hydro Northeast, Inc., was re-elected as New Hampshire commission vice chair, and George Watkins of Walpole as secretary/treasurer. 🌿

Funds Help Landowners Slow Erosion

EROSION of riverbanks is the largest concern of many landowners along the Connecticut River. In an assessment of the northern reaches of the river and its tributaries, CRJC and the Essex County, Vt. Natural Resources Conservation District found a lack of forested buffers in comparison with many other rivers. Lack of these buffers is a major contributor to erosion.

For the first time in the watershed, there is financial assistance available for landowners to combat erosion by establishing forested buffers. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) uses both federal and state money to improve the water quality of streams by assisting agricultural landowners in the voluntary establishment of vegetative buffers. An example of these funds at work is in Canaan, Vt., where earlier this summer State Rep. Bill Johnson (R-Canaan), and his wife Ursula planted over 6,000 trees on a 27-acre stretch of their farmland along the Connecticut.

The work was done by the Northeast Kingdom Conservation Service Corps, a program of the Northwoods Stewardship Center located in East Charleston, and coordinated through the Essex County Natural Resources Conservation District. Over 5,000 trees came from several nurseries, with the remaining 1,319 dug on the Johnsons' property and replanted where needed. A total of 18 tree and three shrub species were used in the project, with hardwood species of black willow, cottonwood, green ash, red, striped, and silver maple, yellow and white birch, red oak, cherry, box elder, butternut, poplar, meadow-sweet, alder and hawthorne planted. Softwood species planted included white cedar, tamarack, spruce, white pine and balsam fir.

Planting patterns are intended to re-create what would naturally grow there.

Through CREP, landowners such as the Johnsons are compensated for the loss of their productive agricultural land through up-front incentive and annual rental payments. With federal cost-share and incentive payments available, 90 percent and in some instances 100 percent of tree planting and fencing costs may be covered. These funds are available in the watershed for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately, New Hampshire has not created a similar program, although farmers on that side of the river agree the need is there.

For more information on the CREP program or other incentive programs available to Essex and Caledonia County landowners, please contact NRCS District Conservationist Tim McKay at 802-748-3885 ext 109 or email timothy.mckay@vt.usda.gov. In the White River Conservation District of Orange and Windsor Counties, call 802-295-1504, and in Windham County, call 802-254-5323.

The Essex County Conservation District contributed to this article. 🌿

Canaan, Vt. landowners plant over 6,000 trees to protect their Connecticut River frontage.



AJ Seibel and Jen Dubuque take a break from planting.

Vermont Adopts Riparian Buffer Guidance

IT'S well known that a sturdy buffer of native vegetation is the best hedge against water pollution and erosion. The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has recently adopted new Riparian Buffer Guidance and has also issued Technical Papers on Riparian Buffers and Corridors. These documents and other related information can be found at www.anr.state.vt.us/site/html/buff/anrbuffer2005.htm

The new guidance uses 50-foot and 100-foot "default" buffer widths for rivers and streams, but also considers site factors that may call for a recommended buffer that is narrower or wider. The guidance is well grounded in science and offers a sound model for local

communities to adopt their own buffer protection ordinances.

Agency staff will use the new guidance in evaluating development projects that come in for Act 250 review, and to help applicants in designing Act 250-regulated projects that incorporate appropriate buffer zone widths for protecting riparian functions.

This is an important first step for Vermont, which is the only state in New England that still has no statewide shoreland protection law, despite having one of the most advanced agency river management programs in the region.

For information please contact Nancy Manley at: nancy.manley@anr.state.vt.us. 🌿

Lebanon Officials Tour River in War Canoe

MORE than 20 Lebanon, N.H. city officials explored the marvels and beauties of the Connecticut River on June 8,



Lebanon city officials and TransCanada's Ken Alton prepare to tour the river in style. Scott Edwards (kneeling by canoe) lent his vintage war canoe for the trip.

many of them seeing their city's riverbank for the very first time from the water. Putting in below Wilder Dam, the group viewed some of neighboring Hartford's many riverside parks and got a paddlers' eye view of the West Lebanon commercial strip.

Ken Alton of TransCanada Hydro Northeast and CRJC's Adair Mulligan helped lead the trip, which was expertly organized by Lebanon's Upper Valley Subcommittee representatives Nicole Cormen and Joan Monroe.

As the city's historic Westboro Rail Yard swung into view, talk turned to the Connecticut River Byway and potential for cross-river cooperation with Hartford on cultural heritage tourism surrounding the area's important rail history.

A highlight of the trip was the chance (for some) to ride the river in Scott Edwards' beautifully restored 25-foot 1948 Old Town war canoe. Scott is the owner of Hemlock Pete's Canoes in North Haverhill, N.H., and volunteered his time and antique craft for the trip. 🌿

River Assessment Explores Tributaries

Mohawk and Upper Ammonoosuc Sediments Studied

HOW could the failure years ago of a small dam high in the New Hampshire hills affect a Vermont farmer today?

Last year's eye-opening assessment of the northern 85 miles of the river's mainstem has led to new inquiries about the effect of tributaries on mainstem erosion. Geomorphologist John Field, who conducted last year's study, is again assisting CRJC in 2005 to look closely at the Mohawk and Upper Ammonoosuc rivers to see how these rivers move sediment and affect the mainstem.

Also this summer, Dr. Field will proceed with a bioengineering project at the Colebrook Industrial Park, identified last year as a problem area related to sediment deposits

from the Mohawk River upstream. Colebrook officials are anxious to demonstrate an alternative to riprap at this eroding site.

To ensure that the 2004 results benefit river towns, Dr. Field is producing large panel maps of erosion sites for towns on both sides of the river and will discuss with each town what is causing erosion and how to address it.

Dr. Field's studies of the mainstem below Groveton include examining major problem areas, including possible effects of the breaching of Wyoming Dam and erosion at the Groveton Cemetery. He is also looking at the effects of the breaching of the Nash Stream dam.

This year's work is funded by grants from the N.H. Department of Environmental Services and the Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund.

Dr. Field will present his findings at a series of public meetings later in the fall. 🌿



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Every Drop Counts

Progress on the Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan

THE Commissions are drafting their River-wide Overview for the extensively updated Recreation Plan for the Connecticut River Valley, following completion of a year of revision by the local river subcommittees. The draft for public comment is expected this fall. Meanwhile, progress on many fronts is occurring throughout the valley.

🌊 **Piermont**, N.H. voters approved a new floodplain ordinance in March at town meeting (find out more from Vicky Boundy at Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission).

🌊 **Stratford**, N.H. is building a new community wastewater treatment system for the village of Stratford Hollow, eliminating a number of direct discharges to Bog Brook. Bog Brook flows into the Connecticut River several hundred yards below a popular canoeing area that was discovered last summer to be unsafe for contact recreation because of high levels of *E. coli* bacteria.

🌊 **Lemington**, Vt. has protected majestic Monadnock Mountain with the help of the Trust for Public Land and a Forest Legacy easement held by the state of Vermont. The mountain, formerly owned by Champion International, is a landmark and the scenic backdrop to the town of Colebrook. The Green Mountain Club has mustered local volunteers to rebuild the historic fire tower at its summit.

🌊 The **Charlestown** (N.H.) Conservation Commission is sending a letter to each riverfront owner advising them of the N.H. Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act and providing helpful sources of information.

🌊 The Lower Cohase Chamber of Commerce sponsored a “Paddle the Border” event in the **Haverhill/Wells River** stretch of the river that attracted about 60 people, even in the pouring rain.

🌊 **Guildhall**, Vt. has adopted a new town plan that much more closely reflects the town’s setting on the Connecticut River. **Thetford, Barnet**, and a number of other Vermont communities are updating and revising their town plans.

🌊 Volunteers in **Lancaster**, N.H. and surrounding towns have set up a water quality monitoring program for the Israel’s River. NH DES is providing training for the volunteers, and notes that the state currently has little or no data on this important tributary. Similar efforts will get underway for the Ammonoosuc River.

🌊 **Thetford**, N.H. has a new 300 acre town forest, thanks to the foresight of a local resident, and help from The Nature Conservancy and the Upper Valley Land Trust.

🌊 **Rockingham**, Vt. citizens are petitioning to establish a town conservation commission. 🌿

Join the Sixth Annual RiverSweep

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 27
8 A.M. TO NOON**

BRAT (the Black River Action Team) seeks all those willing to get their feet wet and help pull trash from the banks and bed of the Black River in Springfield or Ludlow, Vt. Every volunteer gets a free T-shirt. Contact Kelly Stettner at 802-885-1533 or e-mail blackrivercleanup@yahoo.com for more information.

Volunteers Battle Alien Glossy Buckthorn

CONGRATULATIONS to volunteers who helped yank the invasive tree glossy buckthorn from Hanover (N.H.) conservation land at the Tanzi Tract. One volunteer took what he learned about invasives back to his own community, Pinewood Village in West Lebanon. The landscape committee of the Pinewood Owners Association now plans to conduct its own inventory of invasive plants on their condominium grounds, and eradicate the buckthorn—unwittingly nurtured as desirable

leafy screen by some residents—as well as other invasives. Nicole Cormen of the Upper Valley River Subcommittee and Lebanon Conservation Commission, is one of those advising the Pinewood owners. For information on native plants to replace these aliens in landscaping, see CRJC’s fact sheet, “Planting Riparian Buffers,” and check the state’s Web site: www.nhnursery.com.



UPDATE

The last issue of River Valley News included an incorrect phone number for the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust, which serves New Hampshire’s North Country. It is 603-823-7777, or on the Web: www.aconservationtrust.org.

New Directors, *continued*

tion. Since 1992, CRJC has disbursed over \$1,201,000 to support 399 local projects throughout the watershed.

Town boards and committees, citizen groups, and other non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for partnership funding. Grants are made once each year.

2005 Partnership Grants Water Quality

Ammonoosuc Water Quality Grant (\$4,400)

The town of Littleton, N.H. will establish a volunteer water quality monitoring program for the Ammonoosuc River as part of a comprehensive Ammonoosuc River Corridor Study. Volunteers will be drawn from Littleton, Bethlehem, Carroll, Lisbon, Landaff, Bath, and Haverhill, N.H.

Dummerston Covered Bridge Erosion Control (\$4,000)

The Dummerston (Vt.) Conservation Commission will reconstruct a highly eroded river access trail next to the town's historic covered bridge. The stream bank will be restored and landscaped to reduce sediment-laden storm water runoff into the West River.

Stream Geomorphic Assessment at Ball Mountain Brook (\$4,000)

The West River Watershed Alliance will use the assessment to enable informed management decisions by local planners in Stratton and Jamaica, Vt. concerning stream restoration and identify likely erosion-prone areas in the Ball Mountain Brook watershed.

Peacham and Barnet Water Quality Study (\$3,000)

Led by the Peacham Conservation Commission, community participants in Peacham and Barnet, Vt. will collect and analyze baseline water quality data from East Peacham Brook and parts of the Stevens River in order to identify threats. This will establish and fortify a partnership between Barnet and Peacham with respect to river resources in this area.

Riverbank Restoration on Magalloway Road (\$2,000)

The Pittsburg (N.H.) Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club in cooperation with the N.H. Department of Resources and Economic Development, will restore the riparian buffer and riverbank at the Magalloway Road crossing of the Connecticut River.

Blood Brook E. coli Monitoring (\$1,500)

The Norwich (Vt.) Conservation Commission will continue monitoring of E.coli levels in the Blood Brook watershed utilizing a state grant for laboratory services.

Black River Visual Assessment (\$1,000)

The Black River Watershed (Vt.) Action Team will use the visual assessment as the first step toward improving water quality. Findings will be used to identify sites needing further study and to set priorities for future projects such as trash clean-up and buffer planting.

Recreation

Connecticut River Birding Trail, Lower VT/NH Section (\$5,000)

The Connecticut River Birding Trail introduces people at any level

of birding experience to some of the finest publicly accessible birding sites in the valley. This funding supports development of the map and guide to sites in southern New Hampshire and Vermont.

Clay Brook Trailhead Parking and Signage (\$3,000)

The Upper Valley Land Trust will construct trailhead parking and signage at the Clay Brook Trail in Lyme, N.H. The trail provides public access to conserved land surrounding this Connecticut River tributary.

Upper Valley Trails Directory Revision (\$2,000)

The Upper Valley Trails Alliance will update its directory of area trail organizations to indicate who publishes trail maps, maintains trails, organizes events, and is involved in trail-related conservation and outdoor recreation.

Passumpsic River Trail Maintenance & Erosion Control (\$1,800)

The Kingdom Trails Association will work on erosion prevention and trail maintenance, including assessment and potential relocation, of trails running along the East and West branches of the Passumpsic River in Burke, Vt.

Beecher Falls River Access (\$1,500)

The Grace United Methodist Church of Canaan, Vt. will work on a new, low-maintenance access to the Connecticut River for canoes, kayaks, other cartop boats, and fishing.

Land Protection & Management

Riparian Meadows Preservation Feasibility Study (\$4,500)

The Upper Valley Land Trust will explore, evaluate, and present land conservation options for securing permanent protection of large parcels of prime agricultural land associated with the Bel-lows Falls Dam as they are transferred from TransCanada Hydro Northeast to the town of Rockingham, Vt.

Ashuelot Land Conservation Implementation (\$4,000)

The Monadnock Conservancy's Land Conservation Plan for the Ashuelot River (N.H.) Watershed encourages land protection agreements that will benefit water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation in the 25 towns of the watershed. This grant will support that work.

Slade Brook Management Plan (\$3,500)

The Hanover (N.H.) Conservation Council will create a land management plan for 35 acres along Slade Brook, a tributary of the Connecticut River. The plan will include a habitat assessment and inventory of flora and fauna as well as water quality testing.

Fall Mountain Protection Project (\$3,000)

Funds will help The Nature Conservancy of New Hampshire Conservancy complete the purchase of 950 acres on Fall Mountain and ensure the permanent protection of forest, wetlands, ponds, and important habitat for a wide array of wildlife and plant species, including the federally endangered northeastern bulrush.

Agriculture

Locally Grown Food Guide (\$4,000)

Funds will help print 20,000 copies of a second edition of the Locally Grown Guide and distribute them at 200 sites, expanding the area covered by the first edition. The publication makes it easy for consumers to find and learn about locally produced food.

Education

Manual for Landowners (\$4,000)

“Caring for Your Land in the Upper Valley” will provide information and inspiration to landowners who want to manage their property for multiple uses, including wildlife habitat, productive forestry, recreation, scenic features, and water quality protection.

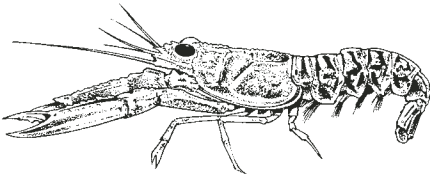
Boltonville Land Use Explorers Conservation Day Camp (\$3,500)

The B.L.U.E. camp, held at a dairy farm on the Wells River, will teach students about the human and environmental history of their community and the Wells River watershed, including the benefits and impacts of human land use and development.

Invasive Species

Rusty Crayfish Invasion (\$4,000)

This Vermont Institute of Natural Science research project, involving and educating local students, will establish much-needed baseline data on this exotic species in the White River and provide a research model for other groups in the Connecticut River basin.



Northeast Kingdom Invasive Species Initiative (\$3,000)

This grant will support public education for Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom Invasive Species Initiative, a collaborative partnership committed to coordinated action in combating terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.

Visitor Education & Services for the Scenic Byway

Windsor Waypoint Center Educational Exhibit (\$5,000)

The Windsor Improvement Corporation will design and create a compelling educational display on the history of the town of Windsor, Vt. and its relationship to the Connecticut River.

Riverbank Dock Project (\$5,000)

The Fort at No. 4 in Charlestown, N.H. will replace and improve its dock and maintain the riparian buffer and walking trail located at the edge of the fort and the bank of the Connecticut River, to improve its accessibility as a byway attraction.

Interpretive Panels for Quechee Gorge Visitor Center (\$4,500)

The town of Hartford, Vt. will design, fabricate and install nine interpretive panels at the newly constructed Quechee Gorge Visitor Center. Exhibits will describe the natural and cultural history of the area.

Valley Quest/Heritage Tourism (\$2,000)

This project aims to foster quality heritage tourism in the Upper Valley region along the Connecticut River Scenic Byway. Funds will provide Valley Quest books to six inns along the byway, orient staff to area Quest destinations, and encourage appreciation for the distinctive natural, cultural, and scenic assets of the region.

IN APPRECIATION OF GEORGE MOULTON

THE Commissions acknowledge with great regret the passing this April of George Moulton, formerly of Charlestown. As Connecticut River Commissioner from 1987 to 1995, and president of the Joint Commissions from 1991 to 1995, he ensured that the young organization would stand for environmental protection as well as compatible economic development, and that it would have firm ties to local communities and give them a stronger voice in matters affecting the Connecticut River.

“George laid the administrative foundation for CRJC, and as a volunteer, worked ceaselessly on our behalf,” observed Executive Director Sharon Francis. A retired professional engineer, George applied his organizational skills and appreciation for detail to crafting the organization’s policies. The staff and commissioners who served with Moulton also recall him as a deeply kind man.

This legacy of leadership from George Moulton inspired the Connecticut River Joint Commissions to establish a Founders’ Award, which will be given annually to the Partnership project that best reflects George Moulton’s emphasis on good science, local initiative, and bi-state partnerships. 🌿

Littleton Receives CRJC’s First Founders Award

CRJC named the town of Littleton, N.H. as the recipient of its first Founders’ Award. Commissioners established the award to honor the memory of George Moulton (1923–2005), and other founders whose contributions have had a lasting effect on the commissions, their programs, and accomplishments.

Littleton’s award-winning project was selected from among other recipients of CRJC’s Partnership grants. Littleton proposed establish a volunteer water quality monitoring program for the Ammonoosuc River as part of a comprehensive Ammonoosuc River corridor study the town is conducting. Volunteers from Littleton and six neighboring towns along the Ammonoosuc will participate.

According to commissioners, Littleton’s project exemplifies Moulton’s convictions about the best path to improve rivers: true cooperation across political boundaries, strong science, and local initiative. 🌿

Calendar

For the most current information,
visit www.crjc.org/calendar1.htm

SEPTEMBER

- 8 Headwaters Subcommittee, Columbia Town Hall, 7-9 pm
- 13 Mt. Ascutney Subcommittee, Windsor Resource Center, 7-9 pm
- 19 Upper Valley Subcommittee, Bicentennial Bldg, Thetford Hill, 7-9 pm
- 29 Riverbend Subcommittee, Littleton Community House, 7-9 pm
- 26 CRJC, Lebanon City Hall, 1-3:30 pm

OCTOBER

- 26 Wantastiquet Subcommittee, Westmoreland Town Hall, 7-9 pm
- 31 CRJC, Veterans Administration Hospital, Yazinski Building, White River Junction, 1-3:30 pm

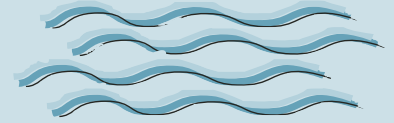
NOVEMBER

- *special harvest supper working meetings!*
- 8 *Mt. Ascutney Subcommittee, Windsor Resource Center, 5:30-9 pm
 - 10 *Headwaters Subcommittee, location TBA, 5-9 pm
 - 21 *Upper Valley Subcommittee, location TBA, 5-9 pm
 - 8 CRJC, Lebanon City Hall, 1-3:30 pm
 - 30 Wantastiquet Subcommittee, Westmoreland Town Hall, 5-9 pm

DECEMBER

- 1 *Riverbend Subcommittee, Littleton Community House, 5-9 pm

River Ripples



Dams Have New Owners

This spring, TransCanada Corporation of Alberta, Canada completed its purchase of the hydroelectric facilities previously owned by USGen New England, Inc. The results of an auction sale of the assets, previously announced in September 2004, received ultimate bankruptcy court approval and met other regulatory approvals and conditions during the winter.

An existing agreement between the town of Rockingham, Vt. and USGen provided the town with the option to purchase the Bellows Falls hydroelectric facility. If the sale of the Bellows Falls facility is completed to Rockingham, TransCanada will have 15 dams with 38 hydroelectric generating units on two rivers in New England: the Connecticut River in New Hampshire and Vermont and the Deerfield River in Massachusetts and Vermont. Flow information for each of the dams on the Connecticut is available at www.crjc.org/riverflow.htm.

Land Conservation May Lower Tax Bills

A study by the Trust for Public Land has found that land conservation may mean lower property tax bills in New Hampshire towns. The study indicates that the tax bill on the typical house is, on average, higher in towns with higher population and more buildings.

Towns that have a higher proportion of permanently conserved land generally enjoy somewhat lower property tax rates in the long run. This conclusion is contrary to a commonly held perception that more development will lower taxes.

The study concludes that patterns of growth have an effect on both the livability and affordability of a town. Land conservation may be used as a tool for protecting resources that contribute to the quality of life, such as clean water and public recreation, and also as a tool for communities to use in planning for growth.

To view the report, and see how your town measures up on property taxes, population, and protected land, see the Trust for Public Land Web site, www.tpl.org.

New Hampshire Voters Fund Land Conservation

A growing number of New Hampshire towns are passing bonds to finance land conservation. Some towns are buying land outright, and others are purchasing conservation easements. The trend is emerging as the boom residential development is exceeding the capacity of some towns to provide safety services, road maintenance, and new public school classrooms to their growing populations. Since 2001, 69 communities around the state have approved nearly \$123 million for land conservation. For more information about conservation bonds, contact the Center for Land Conservation Assistance at 603-717-7045.

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