



Headwaters at Fourth Connecticut Lake Pittsburg, NH and Chartierville, Quebec,

CRJC's mission is to preserve the visual and ecological integrity and sustainable working landscape of the Connecticut River Valley, and guide its growth and development through grassroots leadership. Five local river subcommittees carry out this work with a corps of over 100 volunteers.

Education and Engagement

The Connecticut River Joint Commissions have continued to educate and engage citizens about the River and the economic and environmental health of the entire region in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Meetings continued educational presentations:

- Misha Cetner and Kevin Burke of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources briefed Commissioners and the public on the new Vermont Shoreland Protection Act.

Connecticut River Joint Commissions FY2015 Annual Report

July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

- In February of 2015 Commissioners engaged in a day-long retreat facilitated by Michele Tremblay of Naturesource Communications to update the Joint Commissions Strategic Plan. The Commissioners formed subcommittees on development, planning, and communications and will play active roles in steering the organization in the upcoming year.
- Glenn English of the Connecticut River Byways Council presented that organization's new tourism brochure and website at <http://www.ctriverbyways.org>. The Byways Council and Joint Commissions explored opportunities for additional collaboration in the future.
- Ann Ingerson, Program Coordinator with Watersheds United Vermont (WUV) briefed Commissioners on the work of the WUV including water quality monitoring, river cleanup, and riparian buffer plantings in the watershed.

Public Outreach

CRJC's website www.crjc.org is simple to access and can be edited using a web-based interface. The new website makes CRJC publications and events easier to locate. It includes an events calendar for CRJC meetings/events as well as partner events and local river subcommittee meetings.

The CRJC Update keeps members and subcommittees informed of meetings, events, and announcements. The publication also reaches those with a general interest in CRJC activities



Connecticut River, Morey Bridge, Orford, New Hampshire

Local River Subcommittee Activities

The local river subcommittees provide local input on projects proposed on the Connecticut River to NHDES, VANR and municipalities on matters pertaining to the river. Staff support is provided by North Country Council with funding from the states of New Hampshire and Vermont.

Headwaters

Headwaters Subcommittee reviews and comments on proposed permits and plans; and periodically updates a corridor management plan. In 2015, activities included:

- ◆ Reviewed and commented on Northern Pass applications to NHDES and on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for US Department of Energy Presidential Permit.

- ◆ Hosted presentation on Vermont's new shoreland regulations.
- ◆ Reviewed and commented on several permit applications.
- ◆ Reviewed and commented on Conte Refuge Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan.
- ◆ Participated in update of CRJC strategic plan on behalf of Headwaters communities.
- ◆ Reviewed public access maps and made recommendations to NH Public Access Advisory Board.

Riverbend

The Riverbend Subcommittee meets quarterly.

In 2015, activities included:

- ◆ Participated in discussions about the relationship between Vermont's new shoreland regulations and the Connecticut River impoundments.
- ◆ Reviewed and commented on several permit applications.
- ◆ Reviewed and commented on Conte Refuge Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan.
- ◆ Participated on NHDES workgroup to develop state-specific pipeline spill response plan rules.
- ◆ Hosted presentations on habitat identification and protection projects being conducted in local watersheds such as ACT's Clean Water Healthy Trout initiative and NH Fish & Game's participation in the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture.
- ◆ Reviewed and commented on the VANR Draft Basin Plan for the Stevens, Wells, and Waits Rivers.

Upper Valley

The Upper Valley Subcommittee reviewed and commented on a wide range of regulatory applications, including river shoreline stabilization, wetlands activity, stormwater management, utility and solar projects, and private waterfront structures.

- ◆ The subcommittee also participated in the Wilder Dam federal re-licensing process.
- ◆ An update of the Connecticut River Recreation Management Plan for the Upper Valley Region was published to report on existing and future recreation opportunities in the valley.
- ◆ The subcommittee reviewed the proposed Conservation Management Plan for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge encompassing the entire Connecticut River Watershed.

- ◆ In the Upper Valley area, subcommittee commented to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on proposed conservation areas in the Mascoma and Ompompanoosuc river watersheds.
- ◆ The Upper Valley Subcommittee held a joint meeting with the Mascoma River Local Advisory Committee to discuss issues of mutual concern, including the restoration of the eroding banks by the K-Mart Plaza in Lebanon.
- ◆ The current chair Jim Kennedy attended the CRJC Retreat in Wilder. Goals discussed were strong and active membership, implementation of the Connecticut River Management Plan, and community outreach and education.



Mt. Ascutney View, Windsor, Vermont

Mt. Ascutney

The Mt. Ascutney Subcommittee meets every two months to discuss and act on a variety of river-related issues.

In 2015, activities included:

- ◆ Participated in discussions about the relationship between Vermont’s new shoreland regulations and the Connecticut River impoundments.
- ◆ Held septic system education workshop for homeowners.
- ◆ Participated in FERC process for relicensing Trans-Canada’s hydropower facilities in Wilder and Bel-lows Falls.
- ◆ Reviewed and commented on several permit applications.
- ◆ Assisted local community with plans for emergency access to the river.
- ◆ Reviewed and commented on Conte Refuge Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

- ◆ Began work on update to the corridor management plan.

Wantastiquet

Wantastiquet Subcommittee meets bi-monthly to discuss and act on a variety of river-related issues. Specific responsibilities include providing advice to NHDES, VANR and municipalities on matters pertaining to the river; reviewing and commenting on proposed permits and plans; and developing and periodically updating a corridor management plan.

In 2015, activities included:

- ◆ Participated in discussions about the relationship between Vermont’s new shoreland regulations and the Connecticut River impoundments.
- ◆ Reviewed and commented on several permit applications.
- ◆ Hosted presentations on CRWC Source to Sea Clean-up, US Fish & Wildlife Draft Plan for the Conte Wildlife Refuge, and NH Rivers Council River Runners training on identifying invasive aquatic plant species.



Connecticut River at Brattleboro, Vermont

Connecticut River Joint Commissions - Commissioners FY2015

Vermont

Connecticut River Watershed Advisory Commission

Michaela Stickney, VTANR
 Chris Company, WRC
 Jason Rasmussen, SWCRPC
 Peter Gregory, TRORC
 Alison Low, NVRDC
 Tara Bamford, E. Thetford
 David Deen, Fishing Interests
 Peter Blodgett, Thetford
 Samuel Swope, Guildhall
 Jameson Doig, Newbury
 Kenneth Niemczyk, Woodstock
 Steven Lembke, Guilford
 Kurt Staudter, Springfield

FY 2015 CRJC Officers

Richard Walling, President
 Tara Bamford, Vice President
 Mary Sloat, Treasurer
 Secretary Open

New Hampshire

Connecticut River Valley Resource Commission

Marion Allen, UVLSRPC
 Rebecca Brown, Sugar Hill
 Jennifer Griffin, Hydro Power
 Elaine Levlocke, SWRPC
 Jim McClammer, Charlestown
 Brendan Prusik, Columbia, Forestry
 Richard Sanders, Monroe, Agriculture
 Mary Sloat, Hanover
 Christopher Thayer, Sugar Hill
 Richard Walling, Bath

FY 2016 CRJC Officers

Jason Rasmussen, President
 Richard Walling, Vice President
 Mary Sloat, Treasurer
 Kurt Staudter, Secretary

Financial Report FY 2015 July 1, 2014—June 30, 2015

