

Upper Valley Subcommittee  
of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions  
Monday – August 21, 2017  
Lyme Town Office, New Hampshire  
Approved Minutes

Present:

Christine Bunten, Orford  
Sue Mackenzie, Lyme  
John Mudge, Lyme  
Alice Creagh, Hanover  
Jim Kennedy, Hanover  
Bill Bridge, Thetford  
Melissa, Horwitz, Norwich  
Bartlett Leber, Norwich  
Lynn Bohi, Hartford  
David Barrell, Hartford  
Tara Bamford, CRJC, staff

1. Chairman Jim Kennedy opened the meeting at 7:05 and introductions were made.
2. Minutes – Tara apologized that her CRJC meeting prior to this one today ran over and she didn't have time to go print the minutes of June 19, 2017 to bring. They will go on the agenda for the next meeting.
3. Updates – Tara reported that Kari Dolan can't attend after all but will call in. Some updates were covered in the meantime. Tara reported that the Conte Refuge folks sent the Watershed on Wheels away due to lack of funding so there will be no joint event at the Montshire after all. members expressed disappointment as many had been willing to volunteer time.
4. Kari Dolan, Program Manager, called in with an update on Vermont's Clean Water Initiative. She said that Gov. Scott had made a proclamation for Clean Water Week that morning. The Office of the State Treasurer issued the report required by the legislature about what the program would need for funding and alternative sources. They said the TMDLs would need \$48 million over the next 2 years for wastewater treatment facility upgrades, assistance to farmers with runoff, assistance to municipalities with stormwater, state highway stormwater, and buffer restorations. The 2 sources recommended were 10 more years of the clean water fund rather than having it sunset, and a surcharge on the property transfer tax.

Kari said there are several grant programs for specific use cases – ecosystem restoration grants, direct funds to run through RPCs, and grants in aid. The RPCs and Conservation Districts will be administering new block grants. She explained that for any investment, it will need to be demonstrated how it will help achieve a TMDL, and it will have to be consistent with Act 64,

Vermont's Clean Water Act.

Lynn asked what is being done to stop erosion, since soil erosion is adding to the nutrient loading. Kari replied that they would like to see dam relicensing move more toward natural seasonal flows and consideration of habitat and safety.

Kari also reported that the buffer policy is under revision again. More protection will be added for logging and more emphasis on floodplain forest restoration. Agricultural BMPs will be required now as well, such as an increase from a 10' buffer to 25' (that can be grass or grazed). Kari will be participating in the buffer policy update and will keep Connecticut River needs in mind.

5. Permit Reviews – Lyme's River Road relocation is on hold pending eminent domain proceedings. John will hold onto the plans as Jim will be recusing himself.

Also in Lyme, Sue reported that in the Grant Brook area, south of the bridge, there are 2 areas of erosion. The lower one was eating under the asphalt. The upper one now needs attention. The town is requesting a 2nd emergency permit for this 2nd July 1 storm site.

Also under an emergency authorization, Jim reported that DOT threw stone on the slope next to Rte 10. He contacted DES and learned that they didn't know DOT had done this. They are going to have to come back for an after the fact permit. They will need to add soil and vegetation. The erosion seems to be caused by an overflowing well, with water going under the road into the gully. Rocks are falling into the river from the repair.

Jim reported that DES wants Dartmouth to map wetlands prior to the Girl Brook low bridge replacement and check with the Heritage Bureau. They also asked where the stockpile locations would be and to replace the stone ford. Hanover Conservation Commission had submitted comments to NHDES, and NHDES had requested additional information.

6. Update on FERC relicensing for Wilder Dam – John reported that additional work has been ordered on the studies. There is no new timeline yet.

7. Other business/updates – Carl reported the concern brought to him about the old Fairlee dump on the banking. It was discussed as a possible source to sea clean-up site, but there was concern about making the bank more unstable and more debris falling out. It was suggested that ANR and Ron Rhodes should be contacted to come look at it and make recommendations. It was also suggested that CRJC should have these kinds of contacts on the website as a resource.

Jim announced the NH RMAC meeting August 29 to discuss the Warner River nomination and instream flow rules.

Carl Schmidt (Orford) joined the meeting and was updated on the discussion about the Fairlee dump. He said he spoke with Jay Barrett and Steve Stocking about it as well.

Carl said Fisher is still waiting for his engineer to get back to him about a site visit. Part of what was put in failed in high water last spring. They are thinking it stuck out too far. Jim agreed, it went 10 ft and DES usually restricts to 2 ft.

Tara reported that this would be her last meeting as staff as she is leaving NCC at the end of the

month and NCC would not contract this project to her despite the fact that she purchased the required insurance. Members expressed their disappointment to be changing staff again. She said she may ask to be a Thetford alternate in the future and would attend meetings as a Commissioner when she is available.

8. Next meeting – September 18 if needed, otherwise October 23. Sue will check on the room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tara Bamford.