



Connecticut River Joint Commissions

10 Water Street, Lebanon, NH
Monday, February 26, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

NH–Jim McClammer; Jennifer Griffin, Alex Belenz, John Mudge, Steven Schneider, Alt.; VT– Jason Rasmussen, Steven Lembke, Chris Company, Beth Kennett, Michael Storage, Tara Bamford.

Commissioners Absent: Alison Low, David Deen

Guests: Jessica Savage, VT Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative; NH Parks and **Eric Feldbaum** – Community Recreation Specialist/CPRP, Division of Parks and Recreation, NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; James Kennedy, Chair Upper Valley Committee; Nancy Heatley, Mt. Ascutney Committee; Kathy Urffer, Connecticut River Conservancy.

Jessica Savage spoke of the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative

<http://fpr.vermont.gov/VOREC>

In Vermont, a healthy outdoor recreation economy directly supports related businesses and organizations. Moreover, it also contributes to numerous other aspects of the Vermont economy and culture, including the encouragement of healthy communities and individuals, enhancement of the Vermont lifestyle and the Vermont brand, increased connection to nature and attraction of high quality employers and a sustainable workforce in all economic sectors.

We know the economy in Vermont benefits from our shared love of the outdoors. Direct spending at outdoor retailers and service providers (gear outlets, manufacturers, sales reps, guide services, marketing firms that specialize in outdoor recreation, etc.) as well as per trip expenditures (meals, gas, hotels etc.) adds up to a whopping \$2.5 billion annually in consumer spending. Nationally, the \$646 billion outdoor recreation industry is now being measured as part of America’s gross national product.

By promoting our outdoor recreation assets and businesses we will be able to sustainably support this sector and help drive overall growth in the Vermont economy.

The VOREC steering committee is made up of Vermont businesses and non–profits including outdoor manufacturers, retailers, brand representatives, trail and user groups and conservation organizations, as well as state government. The VOREC steering committee’s purpose is to engage with businesses, government, the nonprofit sector and the public to identify specific outcomes that promote business opportunities, increase participation opportunities, and strengthen the quality and stewardship of our recreational resources.

Business Meeting

Adopt December Minutes: Commissioner McClammer moved to adopt the minutes with minor corrections; Comm. Lembke seconded the motion. Motion Carried: With one Abstention.

Accept Financials January 2017 – Comm. McClammer moved and Comm. Griffin seconded the motion that the budget figures be reviewed to assure the totals are corrected to equal the approved budget figures. Staff will have the financial manager review the statements. It was noted that the Mitigation and Enhancement grant funds were 80% unexpended and that a grant extension should be requested.

FY17 Financial Review and Form 990 – Comm. McClammer noted that his name was missing. Directors appointed after the fiscal year end would not appear as the list consists of directors in place from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The year end financial did not display the remaining M&E funds as a restricted line item. Staff explained that the revenue had been recognized in the previous fiscal year but that the statements were in draft and could be modified. Staff will speak with the financial manager and auditor to make this change.

Executive Committee Update – The administrative contract had been put out to bid in 2015 and the executive committee decided to renew with UVLSRPC for an additional year which would be within the time frame. This will also give the executive committee an opportunity to work on the RFP over the several months.

Appointment to the M&E Fund Committee – Due to personnel changes in several organizations, a replacement was needed to fill the CRJC position on the Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund. Three candidates expressed interest in serving: Tara Bamford, Jim Kennedy, and Rick Walling. The Executive Committee met on February 14 and appointed Rick Wall to serve with Jim Kennedy as his alternate.

Communication Work Group Update – Comm. Lembke reported that the Communications Workgroup had met earlier and spoke about the uses for the remaining funding on the M & E grant and requesting an extension of time. The intention is to produce brochures and a banner with the remaining funds.

Relicensing Update – FERC Workgroup – Jim McClammer reported that the work group met in December to collaborate on a letter to FERC to comment on the erosion study and to also point out that there was no new schedule issued for the study report meetings. On January 15, 2018, CRJC wrote to FERC and requested that a schedule be published for 1) a study report meeting, 2) stakeholders to file comments on the supplemental erosion study, and 3) GRH to file a study report meeting summary. On February 15, 2018, FERC published a revised process plan and schedule that includes the information requested by CRJC. A study report meeting will be held on March 8, 2018, GRH will file a study report meeting summary by March 23, 2018, and

stakeholder requests to amend the study plan are due on April 22, 2018.

Comm. Griffin noted that there will be a meeting at Great River Hydro on March 8 at the Conference Room at the Wilder facility. Connecticut River Conservancy has employed The Princeton Group to conduct this review. Comm. McClammer moved and Comm. Company seconded a motion to allocate \$2,500 to the peer review study. Discussion ensued about possible financial support to help fund the peer review of new erosion studies. Comm. McClammer withdrew that motion and then requested additional information from CRC for a proposal for the type of support might be helpful. Mudge second. Abstentions: Tara Bamford and Beth Kennett.

Local River Subcommittee Member Additions – Activity Report

Several new members were nominated to serve on the Upper Valley Subcommittee: Ruth Blyler, Lebanon; Ben Dana, Danielle Allen, Fairlee; Comm. Lembke moved seconded by Comm. Company to accept the appointments Vote: Unanimous

Discussion followed about inactivity on Wantastiquet and Headwaters subcommittees. Comm. Company discussed how the Vermont Water activity had changed and that the context for water advocates is very different now than when CRJC was initially created. Comm. Belenz explained the efforts that he was undertaking to recruit subcommittee members. Mt. Ascutney had a question about Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival was discussed. Black River Action Group (BRAT) is involved in that event. Unknown whether the WOW exhibit

April 16, 2018 Meeting Agenda – Among the topics that might be covered at the meeting are Forestry – Tourism – Economic Development; preparation for the annual meeting and new officers. Comm. Company suggested that a planning session be undertaken again for CRJC during FY19 and be included in the budget.

Follow up and New Business

Several Commissioners appointments end at the end of June and will need to reapply or request an extension. Staff will look in to Comm. Mudge appointment timing with NH Governor's office.

Adjourn: Comm. Lembke moved to adjourn at 3:49 p.m. seconded by Comm. Company.

Next Meeting: April 16, 2018 at 2 p.m.