



## CRJC Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee

Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Windsor Welcome Center

7:00PM

### Meeting Minutes

Present:

Colleen O'Neill (Cornish)

Cordelia Merritt (Hartland)

David Taylor (Plainfield)

Bill Manner (Springfield)

Nancy Heatley (Weathersfield, Chair)

Alex Belenz (NCC)

1. Nancy Heatley opened the meeting at 7:03 and introductions were made.
2. Minutes: the minutes from November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 were approved without correction by motion of Manner/Merritt. Nancy provided a summary of the previous meeting to David Taylor.
3. Great River Hydro Erosion Study Update. Nancy provided an overview of the subcommittee's involvement in the FERC relicensing process. The subcommittee also performed outreach to towns to encourage them submit warrant articles regarding funding for erosion mitigation, education, and river access. Alex provided a general overview of the CRJC FERC Working Group's assessment of the updated erosion study supplement recently submitted to FERC. The FERC Working Group has concerns with the methods used in the study supplement, and do not feel it adequately addresses streambank erosion. There is also little information available about comment submission or an updated application timeline from FERC. CRJC will be reaching out to FERC for clarification on the timeline. Nancy noted that towns, CRJC subcommittees, and other stakeholders were contacted earlier in the application process regarding funds that were potentially available from TransCanada for education, river access, and other related projects. Nancy inquired as to the status of that process. Alex will reach out to find more information.
4. Permit Review. No permits were received since the last meeting.
5. Water Resources Chapter. Nancy noted that little progress has been made since the last meeting. Members indicated that they had found the previous method of updating the document using Google Docs to be challenging. Nancy will be sending out instructions for members to review the summary, recommendations, and anything specific to their towns, and to send their comments to her. Nancy will serve as the master editor. The goal is not to rewrite the plan; rather, it is to update any incorrect or out of date information and add new information where needed. Bill noted that most of the changes will take place in the recommendations summary. Members agreed that the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting was a reasonable deadline for submitting comments. A reminder will be sent out a week before, and a discussion of comments can occur at the meeting. The deadline for the draft chapter will be the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, with another discussion at the meeting. The goal is to have the final version complete before the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Bill made note of several items that will need to be updated from the current chapter. The Vermont Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRDC's) are not listed, and there are new relevant agricultural regulations and funding sources in Vermont as well. Additionally, the draft Tactical Basin Plan for the Black and Ottauquechee Rivers

(Basin 10) was recently released. There is a lot of information in the Basin Plan that should be referenced and/or incorporated into the Water Resources Chapter, including a list of projects associated with the plan.

6. Updates. Alex notified members that Elise Angelillo has resigned. Alex will send around the member roster so that members can confirm it is up to date. Colleen noted that conservation commissions are a potential source of new members. Alex will provide Nancy with the contact information for DES to potentially assist with membership recruiting.

Nancy let members know that the Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival may not happen this year. Currently there is no lead person on getting the event organized and funded; however, there are many individuals willing to help. Bill noted that they previously received funding from TransCanada. CRJC has staffed a booth in recent years, and has assisted with staffing the Fish & Game booth. Nancy will reach out to find out the latest progress and will let members know.

7. The next meeting will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Windsor Welcome Center. Meeting adjourned at 7:52.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alex Belenz.