



Connecticut River Joint Commissions

Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, April 2, 2018 – 2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

CRJC Offices, 10 Water St. Lebanon, NH

Minutes

Attending:

Jason Rasmussen, VT; James McClammer, NH; Chris Company, VT; Jennifer Griffin, NH; Steven Lembke, VT and Christopher Company, VT.

Adopt Meeting Minutes

Approve Minutes of January 15. Comm. Lembke move and Comm. Griffin seconded a motion to adopt the minutes as presented.

Comm. Griffin moved to adopt the Minutes of February 8 meeting. Comm. McClammer seconded the motion. Comm. Lembke abstained as he was not in attendance.

Adopt Financial Statement for February 2018

Comm. McClammer moved and Comm. Griffin seconded a motion to adopt the February Financial Statement. Discussion followed. The M&E Grant has been reported separately and is reflected on the February statement and adjusting journal entries were sent to the auditors to amend the yearend statement. Vote to Accept February Report as presented. Motion Passed; Comm. Company abstained as he arrived after that discussion.

Discussion followed on budget and planning both short range and strategic planning for the long term. Comm. Company stated that convening discussions between the two states was an integral role of the CRJC. Comm. Lembke suggested that the Commissioners be surveyed to determine their thoughts on priorities are for the coming year and their expectations. Comm. discussed that making arrangements and promoting meetings and the speakers requires additional staff time to coordinate. Also this year there was staff turnover, extra work, more meeting administration with speakers and some additional travel to meetings off site.

If it can be afforded, a facilitated strategic planning session will be conducted. First the Commissioners will be surveyed. The Executive Committee and a new President will be responsible for carrying out the plans.

Follow up on April 16 Meeting

Tracie Sales of DES will be invited to discuss proposed new rules and an update on the legislative session. There are changes in process regarding how the LACs can comment and also comply with the new rules. It is hoped she will identify how local river subcommittee members and help to protect water quality? This might be an opportunity to learn how permit reviews actually work in Vermont versus in NH. Kari Dolan will be invited to provide insight on the Vermont Rules and Legislative Up-date.

Steve Schneider reported to the Executive Committee on his efforts to obtain a grant from the Northern Borders Regional Development Commission – Grafton and Sullivan Counties are members of the NBRC. He believes that studying the impact of outdoor recreation on the Upper Connecticut River Valley and Headwaters Regions would be beneficial and something that the NBRC might fund. The NBRC are receptive to the idea. Molly Kaylor at DRED and the Christine Frost, program manager at NBRC thought it was worthy of consideration as long as it was part of a bigger process. They would do a study and identify opportunities for more or better facilities for recreational infrastructure or a marketing campaign for outdoor recreation on the Connecticut River in their region.

For instance it might be washing stations to protect against invasive species. Letter of Intent was sent. The application is due mid-May Sullivan County is 80/20 Grafton County is 50/50 match. CRJC would have 3 years to complete the project. They will have a year to obtain the match. How would you incorporate the northern part of Vermont was discussed. There are many steps to improve outdoor recreation facilities and this would be the first step. October 1, 2019 – October 1, 2020.

Comm. Lembke moved to support UVLSRPC efforts to apply for a \$50,000 grant including match from the NBRC. Comm. Company seconded. Vote: Unanimous

FERC Relicensing

Meeting minutes were published and GRH did a great job of explaining the erosion studies. Now it is up to CRJC to comment. Individuals up and down the river have been sending letters to FERC. The FERC Work Group will be meeting to discuss and draft the letter.

Staff will poll members to see whether Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday week of 9th 2 – 4 pm. At CRJC offices will be best.

Support for CRC Peer Review Study – Comm. McClammer recommend to the full Commission that CRJC allocate to CRC \$1,000 to support the additional efforts of Princeton Hydro in the final peer review. Steve Lembke seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Comm. Company and Griffin abstained. Motion Carried.

Comm. Company and McClammer suggested that CRJC consider a contribution to the CRC for the Source to Sea cleanup in the next fiscal year. Comm. Company moved the contribution and Comm. Griffin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The vacancies on the NH Commission cause vacancies in officer position. The goal moving forward is to provide local river subcommittees to updated Corridor Plans and assist with member recruiting. Outreach in NH to build capacity in the local river subcommittees. (Draft survey to including LRS.) Good ideas, needs further discussion. The new budget will be reviewed at the April meeting, the CRC Request, the Grant Application and FERC letter and future planning surveys to support that effort.

Comm. Lembke moved and Comm. Griffin seconded a motion to adjourn at 4:15 p.m.

Adopted: May 21, 2018