



**Connecticut River Joint Commissions
Executive Committee Meeting, Lebanon, NH
January 15, 2018
2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Present: Executive Committee Members: Jason Rasmussen, Jim McClammer, Steven Lembke, Jennifer Griffin, and David Deen; Commissioner Tara Bamford; Staff UVLSRPC: Steven Schneider, Patricia Crocker

Convene

Commissioner Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

Approve Minutes of November 20, 2017

Comm. McClammer moved to approve the minutes as presented; Comm. Lembke seconded. Comm. Griffin: page 2, paragraph 4 – GRH not GRJ, paragraph 5 – add “recreation” between “CRC” and “survey”; page 3, second to last bullet “representing” rather than “representation”. Minor Edit Motion amended to reflect highlighted changes. David Deen abstained as he was not at the meeting. Vote: Motion carried.

December 2017 Financials

Motion to accept December Financials was made by Comm. Griffin. Comm. Lembke seconded the motion; Vote: Unanimous. Comm. Griffin will arrange for a meeting with Ann MacEwan to review and understand the financial reports.

Website – Follow-Up Discussion with Steve Lembke /Tara Bamford

The Communications workgroup met with staff to discuss the process for reorganizing and updating the website. A number of decisions need to be made before determining the best way to proceed and how much time will be needed to undertake the changes. Staff will send text files of the data on the parked / previous website.

Follow up on December Joint Commissions Meeting – Alex Belenz was unable to serve on the mitigation and enhancement fund review committee so David Deen will be serving on behalf of the CRJC. He will participate by phone for the first meeting and then attend the application review meeting in March. If possible, a permanent replacement for David going forward could attend the March meeting with him. Comm. Rasmussen agreed to follow up with individuals that might be willing to participate.

New Member Recruitment Status – Comm. Lembke reported that Beth Kennett and John Mudge were the latest additions. Two additional individuals were considering joining, but they have yet to submit their applications. There had been no additions in the interim.

Commissioner Work Groups – Comm. Lembke asked to confirm that the communications committee would be a catalyst for ideas for all three subcommittees because it is the only active one at this time. The Development Committee activity was touched upon and it was suggested that the program officer for Upper Valley Vermont Community Foundation and the NH Charitable Foundation – which exist to assist non-governmental organizations with a variety of needs and to build capacity – be contacted. The NH Charitable Organization contact is Kevin Peterson who might be a good resource for identifying funding. Staff will distribute the membership of the ad hoc committees and will include a list of the standing committee in the bylaws and the methods for appointment.

FERC Relicensing Status Report – Comms. Rasmussen and McClammer have drafted a letter for review. The FERC Working Group met recently and there have been many good ideas generated as a result. The recent studies on the impact of erosion as a result of dam operations should be peer reviewed. Comm. McClammer noted that CRJC needed additional resources to adequately conduct a peer review of this new erosion study. The letter seeks to get clarification from FERC about the time line for review of the latest study. Comm. Rasmussen has spoken with Andy Fisk and Kathy Urffer of the Connecticut River Conservancy about the erosion studies. It was suggested that the letter be copied to the congressional delegations of both states to bring the timing matter to their attention. The schedule is out of hand and FERC needs to respond with a new schedule. Following this letter, it may be possible to then follow up with the delegation on peer review matter. Comm. Deen moved and Comm. Lembke seconded a motion to send the letter as drafted. Comm. Griffin abstained. Motion carried.

Discussion followed on a peer review and resources that might be available for peer review.

Comm. Griffin clarified that GRH did not issue a press release when the supplemental erosion report was filed.

RFP for Administrative Services – Staff had distributed the FY 16 RFP for review. Comm. Lembke moved and Comm. Griffin seconded a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the administrative services contract at 4:00 p.m. Steve Schneider and Patricia

Crocker left the room to allow the Comm. to enter executive session. Comm. Lembke moved seconded by Comm. Griffin to come out of executive session at 4:20 p.m. Following discussion the Executive Committee advised the staff that they would prefer to have the UVLSRPC provided administrative services for another year, as optioned for in the contract. Steve Schneider thanked the Commissioners and will respond to this request promptly and will contact Comm. Rasmussen.

February Joint Commissions Agenda – Jessica Savage of Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) will be the guest speaker. The mission of the collaborative is to leverage Vermont’s Outdoor Recreation Assets to Stimulate and Improve Economic Outcomes. Steve Schneider will touch base with Jeff Rosen of the NH Division of Natural and Cultural resources to determine whether there is a similar activity being undertaken in NH on outdoor recreation and economic development and have the NH staff also be invited to the meeting on February 26.

Other Business –

Membership: Staff will e-mail Andy Fisk a reminder to appoint a CRJC member.

February Full Commissions Meeting Agenda

- Jessica Savage and a NH representative if available
- New Member materials
- Communications Work Group Report
- Change in Work Groups (staff send e-mails)
- Correspondence – FERC Work Group sub committee
- Administrative Services Contract Extension

Comm. McClammer moved to adjourn at 4:45 p.m. seconded by Comm. Griffin.