



## Connecticut River Joint Commissions

Suite 225, 10 Water Street, Lebanon, NH 03766

*Monday, October 15, 2018 ~ 2:00 - 4:00 PM*

### Full Commissions Meeting Draft Minutes

**Attending:** VT – Bamford, Campany, Lembke, Menees, Rasmussen, Richter  
NH – Belensz, Chute, Griffin, Harcke, Hastings, Kennedy  
McClammer, Mudge,  
Staff: Crocker, Schneider

#### **Presentation:**

**Matt Leahy, Public Policy Manager, Society for the Protection of NH Forests**

**Jamey Fidel, Forrest & Wildlife Program Director, VT Natural Resources Council**

- Forest management and water quality relationships were discussed. Changes in land use and parcel size impact on water quality impacted by subdivision of land into smaller and smaller pieces and multiple ownerships are gaining momentum in VT. A website tracking forest parcelization trends has been established at <https://vtforesttrends.vnrc.org/>
- Forest Trends is an organization working on initiatives to use a market-based approach to forest maintenance and management. <https://www.forest-trends.org/who-we-are/initiatives/>
- Both speakers agreed that the current use programs in both states have had a positive impact on the maintenance of forests.

**3:15 PM Business Meeting**

**Adopt Minutes of August 20 Meeting – Comm. Lembke moved to approve, seconded by Comm. Hastings. Vote: Unanimous.**

**Accept September Financials – Comm. Campany moved and Comm. Rasmussen seconded a motion to accept the financials as presented... Vote: Unanimous.**

**Comm. Griffin note that the finance subcommittee discussed accounting process and procedures and payment schedules with Anne MacEwan and Pat Crocker.**

Investment policies or use of reserve funds are still under discussion. This will be considered at a meeting next month.

Bylaws Amendments – were sent out 15 days in advance. A 2/3rds majority vote is required to adopt the revised bylaws. Comm. Campany moved and Comm. Belenz seconded approval of the amended bylaws. The quorum requirements are amended to reflect a majority of appointed members of each state rather than a set number from each state. Quorums for subcommittee attendance are a majority of appointed members.

The composition of the executive committee is changed to reflect that the elected officers of each State's Commission, plus the immediate past president for a total of 7 members. The at large committee members are eliminated. Officers are elected from among those individuals. Vote: Unanimous.

The Executive Committee will now consist of President McClammer, Treasurer Griffin, and Comm. Belenz and Vice President Lembke, Secretary Campany and Comm. Bamford for VT and Comm. Rasmussen as immediate past president.

Claremont Savings Bank Funding and Economic Development Grant – CSB has approved the repurposing of the grant from match for a Northern Borders Grant. The new purpose will be to host a symposium between the states on the economic development value and potential of the Connecticut River Valley. Commissioner Belenz volunteered to work with staff on planning the event for the spring with assistance of Commissioner Campany as needed. A spring 2019 date was recommended.

Local Subcommittees – Comm. McClammer spoke about the need to provide some information about resources available on invasive species. Comm. Kennedy spoke about the upcoming replacement of the I-89 Bridge and the Upper Valley Subcommittee will be working on that project and the mitigation and enhancement funds may be available to assist with recreational projects scoped by City of Lebanon.

Another bridge replacement under the Wantastiquet subcommittee and ARM funds may also assist with a pedestrian park project in that region.

The success of the Connecticut River Conservancy in advancing dam removal in Vermont was reported by Comm. Mudge. Of all the dam removals back to 2006, 33 have been removed with eighty percent of dams they have been able to take down in

VT. The CRC reported it is so much easier to work with VT ANR than with NH DES. It was suggested that CRJC look into what is the difficulty in advancing unused dam removals in NH.

Relicensing Update – The instream flow is the one remaining issue that is to be resolved. Documents from the federal delegation and status report were circulated as well as Comm. McClammer’s notes on instream flows and economics of operating the dams. There are many nuances on how the dam operators are being reimbursed for electrical generation that have a significant impact on this issue.

Connecticut River flow management is an important issue. Comm. McClammer suggested CRJC host Wayne Ives at a future meeting to understand the processes of assuring public use and water quality standards. The dams are not designed as flood control dams, but there is a flood control benefit. The dams help to manage the higher flow experiences, but that is not their purpose. The role of land trusts in flood storage and wetlands for flood control were discussed. Climate change is not specifically cited in studies.

Great River Hydro has 5 hydrology models they use to determine high and low flows. Micro-burst rain events are new. The modeling helps model for changes in impact. The target date for the final application is July 2019.

December 2018 Meeting Agenda – Minutes, Financials, CSB Update, LRS Report, FERC Update, and Committee Reports. Presentation: Amy Smagula – NH DES on Invasives at a future meeting was suggested. Water Resources Plan and discussion of CRJC’s mission and commitment to those projects identified was suggested as a topic for the December meeting. Comm. Chute would lead discussion on strategic objectives for a Goals and Plans Committee. The previous strategic planning document will be circulated. Comms. Kennedy, McClammer, Rasmussen, and Campany will work on this.

The Fiscal FY 2020 Ecosystem Restoration Grant will have another round to be noticed in January by VT Water Resources Div.

Adjourn – Comm. Campany moved to adjourn at 4:15 p.m. Comm. Mudge seconded.