



## Connecticut River Joint Commissions

### Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 24, 2018 – 2:00–4:00 P.M.

10 Water St. Lebanon, NH

## Minutes

### **Who are the CRJC Officers and/or Executive Committee Discussed**

The States' and CRJC Bylaws were reviewed and discussed relative to the election of Officers. Because of conflicting interpretations and ambiguities within the bylaws it is unclear how the composition of the CRJC Executive Committee is determined.

Comm. Lembke moved that a subcommittee of the Executive Committee be formed to resolve these questions and recommend bylaws amendments if necessary; and to continue with the current order of officers and at-large members serving on the executive committee as this has been a long-time practice. CRJC will continue to operate as they have with the persons in question attending as members of the public. Comm. McClammer seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous. There four members of the subcommittee are Commissioners Lembke, Rasmussen, Griffin and Bamford.

### **Approve May 2018 EC Minutes**

Comm. Lembke moved approval of the May 2018 EC Minutes. Comm. Campany seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous. Follow - up items. Voting for officers will be put on the August Agenda. Updates to local river subcommittee corridor management plans and a survey of member goals and objectives for CRJC should be pursued.

### **June 2018 Financials**

Comm. Lembke moved acceptance of financials, Griffin seconded. Deficit was the unbudgeted expenditures including FY 2018 Source-to-Sea and Peer Review Study contributions. Vote: Unanimous.

### **M & E Fund Grant Status**

Comm. Bamford reported that invoices for brochures were submitted and one invoice is still pending from Nancy Heatley for banners. The Communications Committee will gather to determine a distribution plan for the flyers. This completes the expenditures for the grant.

### **Work Plan Budget and UVLSRPC Agreement for FY19**

Follow up on the June meeting. Forestry discussion should be rescheduled for the October meeting. The possibility of changing the commission meeting date should be discussed and included in the member survey. Scope and time line for pursuing increased state funding will be added to September Executive Committee agenda with ground work before. Comm. Lembke also suggested that CRJC focus on the strategic plan. Comm. Company suggested the approach be based on what the CRJC offers for value. This should be among the goals and objectives for the planning and working with state Commissions. Company noted that the ANR had a fire in the National Life Building and there is a lot of staff that have been relocated. Awareness of this situation would help to work with the staff over the next few months.

Work Plan budget was discussed. Questions arose about the responsibilities of the RPC relative to the budget. Comm. Company moved and Comm. Lembke seconded a motion to recommend approval of the work plan and the contract pending the August joint commissions meeting acknowledging that the contract cannot be signed until the August meeting and CRJC approval of a budget. Vote: Unanimous. Comm. Lembke also requested that accountant attend the meeting to answer any question from Commissioners. Discussion followed of the contract and work plan that cites the responsibility of commissioners.

### **Invasives Academy – Tuition for LRS Members**

Comm. McClammer presented information about a course on invasives species with tuition of \$65 per person. He noted that both the Wantastiquet and Mt. Ascutney subcommittees are involved in efforts to monitor invasives. He believed that offering to pay the registration fee for attendance at the Academy for local river subcommittees might be a way to encourage and support their activity. Funds would have to be allocated from reserves. Discussions followed on offering one scholarship per subcommittee to attend. Comm. Company moved to table the motion until a budget had been approved and policy on use of reserves had been formulated. Second by Comm. Lembke. Motion Tabled.

### **FERC Relicensing – Status Report**

Comm. McClammer briefed the new members. The three dams are being studied for impact on natural and human resources. The most significant issue for stakeholders is bank erosion resulting from project operations. Most of the studies are winding up and FERC has recently stated that information in the study reports is sufficient for their

environmental analysis of the likely causes of erosion. A meeting of the Aquatics Working Group is scheduled to take place in Wilder on August 7. Those meetings will continue to look at habitat models and how project operations will impact various species.

Comm. Griffin stated the GRH erosion studies indicate there is some impact by project operations but found most of the erosion is caused by spring high water flows. It was noted that CRJC contributed to the Princeton-Hydro peer review of the erosion studies

GRH will file amended license applications once the studies are complete. After filing, additional opportunities for stakeholders to provide input on protection, mitigation and enhancement measures to reduce adverse project effects. A procedural schedule will be issued by FERC once the amended applications are submitted by GRH.

The Connecticut River Conservancy has completed a recreation survey and wants feedback before they submit it to GRH. It has been forwarded to subcommittees for comment and identification of the most important projects in their reaches.

McClammer recommended the FERC work group meet in September to discuss the status and may recommend what to be on the October agenda.

## **Other Business**

### **Water Quality Planning Grant – \$64,000 – RPCs and CRJC**

Olivia presented suggestions for possible watershed-based plans or projects. (See attached.) Watershed based plan or green infrastructure such as demonstration project with public engagement. It was recommended that DES should be consulted for guidance on the types of projects they are favoring at this time. The suggestion was made to combine the objectives of mitigation and public education. Question: Would the CRJC and RPC be joint applicants or if CRJC applied separately would they have to go out to bid for staffing the project? Expanding knowledge of communities of master gardeners or demonstration projects was one suggestion by Comm. Company.

Comm. McClammer noted that a high priority area is Cold River watershed. That could be the selected area. The Cold River is a designated river under the RMPP. There may even be watershed plans for that area of Cold River region. Staff will provide an update at the August CRJC meeting.

## **August Joint Commissions Meeting Agenda**

- Establish a strategic planning committee and decide amount available from reserves. Executive Committee would come up with the initial concept. Strategic planning should include all commissioners.
- Budget Approval
- Bylaw Changes
- Prepare request for additional NH state funding (Sept.)
- Forestland discussion (Oct.)
- LRS plan updates

Comm. McClammer and Comm. Lembke moved to adjourn at 4:20 p.m.

DRAFT