



MINUTES

Connecticut River Joint Commissions Finance Committee

*Suite 225, 10 Water Street, Lebanon, NH 03766
Monday, April 15, 2019 ~ 1:30 - 2:00 PM*

1:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting
Present: Griffin, Bamford, Lembke, McClammer

Comm. Lembke moved to recommend adoption of the proposed budget reserve fund policy.

“Approved expenditures should not exceed 80% of the sum of anticipated operating revenue and unrestricted net assets as of the end of the prior fiscal year (exclusive of the value of inventory). When necessary for cash flow purposes, at the recommendation of the Treasurer or Finance Committee, the Association of Commissioners may vote to increase the operating reserve to a specific dollar amount for a specific period of time.”

Comm. Griffin seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous. The policy will be presented to the Commissioners for review on April 15, request review by CPAs MacEwan and St. Peter, and be on the June meeting agenda for final approval.

Comm. Lembke reported that the options on interest earning bank accounts were limited and would not produce any significant revenue based on the available funds and interest rates at the current time.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 PM.



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Connecticut River Joint Commissions

Suite 225, 10 Water Street, Lebanon, NH 03766

Monday, April 15, 2019 ~ 2:00 - 4:00 PM

2:00 PM Full Commissions Meeting Agenda – Business Meeting

Present: Commissioners VT – Lembke, Company, Rasmussen, Bamford, Caduto; NH – Griffin, Harcke, Kennedy, and McClammer. Staff UVLSRPC Crocker

Comm. McClammer convened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. with introductions.

Adopt Minutes of February 25, 2019 Meeting – Comm. Lembke moved to adopt minutes, Comm. Rasmussen seconded. Comm. Griffin recommends a clarification re the reference to phosphorous impairment in the Wilder impoundment. Control of phosphorous is considered in the NH DES Alteration of Terrain permit process. Comm. Bamford abstained as she was not present. Vote: Motion carried.

Accept Financials March 2019– Comm. Lembke moved to accept financials as presented, Comm. Griffin Seconded motion. Vote: Unanimous.

Waters of the US Comment Letter – Comm. McClammer presented the letter and moved to adopt it as proposed. Comm. Kennedy abstained. With minor grammatical correction the letter was approved. Vote: Motion carried

Connecticut River Economy Conference – Staff explained the status of the USDA application pending. Rep. Kuster’s office provided a support letter. The results of the application are expected later in the spring.

NH Contract Funding for CRJC – The proposed contract for FY 20–21 increased from \$60,000 to \$70,000. Comm. Rasmussen moved to sign agreement proposed by State of NH. Comm. Company seconded motion. Vote: Unanimous. Commissioners expressed their gratitude to Tracie Sales for her support and assistance with the new agreement.

Connecticut River Byway Website – Staff provided the history of the Byway website and the need to move it due to the sale of the current web host. The Byway Committee has

become inactive and the website which promotes the regions on both sides of the river has become an orphan. Comm. Rasmussen moved to have CRJC serve as interim host for this website for up to one year while CRJC staff works with the state staff to find an appropriate permanent home. Vote: Unanimous

Meeting Time Date Discussion – Comm. Chute (appointed by the Lake Sunapee Regional Council) is unable to make a third Monday meeting due to a conflict with his board meeting in Sullivan County. Commissioners would like him to continue to participate but he cannot unless the day/time is revised. Commissioners noted that Chute has been a valuable member of CRJC, but following lengthy discussion, there was no option based on the polling and other member conflicts that would work. The meeting date will have to remain on the third, Mondays. Staff will advise UVLSRPC of this resolution.

Local River Subcommittees Report – Olivia had her baby girl on Sunday, April 14. She will be on leave until at least the end of May. Wantastiquet LRS is being covered by Windham RPC and various UVLSRPC staff will cover the other meetings throughout her leave.

Comm. Kennedy reported that Upper Valley LRS had no business and therefore the meeting tonight was cancelled. However, they are monitoring legislation in the House that proposes municipalities be notified when state-owned rail property is leased, and that lessees follow the same local regulatory and safety requirements as private owner. This legislation would apply to the rail yard in West Lebanon. The LRS concern is focused on safety rather than river impact potential. The land is owned by the State and DOT is involved. They will continue to monitor this situation.

Relicensing Update – Comm. Griffin reported that Vermont Fish and Wildlife is processing data collected and report by GRH for review by the working group. First Light filed with FERC a proposed Final License Application date of April 30, 2020. As the FERC relicensing process hasn't been completed and the GRH project licenses expire on April 30, 2019, FERC will issue a one-year license for each project. The one-year license allows for continued operation under the same conditions as the previous license. A new license date is now likely 2022 or 2023.

Comm. McClammer noted that the Connecticut River Watershed Farmers Alliance commented on the relicensing focused on the erosion issue. It was outside the

comment period but Comm. McClammer asked if commissioners would support this letter. Comm. Lembke suggested Comm. McClammer discuss the letter with Beth Kennett and if the Alliance agreed, a CRJC letter in support of their concerns will be sent to FERC. Comm. Caduto supported the farmers group and said they were working to grow the group. Comm. Bamford suggested CRJC get more engaged with that group in future.

Congresswoman Kuster is considering a site visit to the region as she is becoming more engaged in the FERC relicensing process. She is now assigned to the house Energy and Commerce committee. Discussion followed. CRJC is inviting her to the CRJC Economic Forum and propose that a visit to one of the dams could be incorporated into the Forum. Comm. Griffin supported the idea of a site visit and will look into it with GRH. Staff will draft an email in response.

Strategic Planning RFP Update – Staff reviewed the status of the RFP: advertising, distribution, and inquiries received to date. Discussion followed about inquiring into potential additional funding resources for the strategic planning engagement. NE Grassroots Environmental Fund; Charitable Foundations for both NH and VT; and CSB were all mentioned as potential funding sources for the Organizational Focus. Staff will inquire into these options.

New Business –VINS invited CRJC to participate in an elementary school education event, but with limited staff resources and short notice, staff referred them to CRC. Kathy Urffer can participate on May 14.

The Finance Committee distributed and asked for comments on the Operating Reserve Policy to be voted upon at the June annual meeting.

Annual Meeting Agenda Items

- Bylaw amendments with DES suggested changes will be distributed prior to the annual meeting.
- Nominating Committee – Tara Bamford for Vermont and Jim Kennedy for NH were appointed.
- Water Quality Speakers – Comm. Caduto offered to identify a VT representative and Comm. Bamford suggested David Neils from NH DES and staff will follow up on these.

Adjourn – Comm. Campany moved to adjourn seconded by Comm. Rasmussen at 4:20 PM.

DRAFT