



MINUTES

Connecticut River Joint Commissions

Suite 225, 10 Water Street, Lebanon, NH 03766

Monday, December 17, 2018 ~ 1:00 - 4:00 PM

2:00 PM Full Commissions Meeting Agenda – Business Meeting

Present: Bamford, Kennett, Lembke, Company, Richter, Rasmussen–VT; Chute, Harcke, Mudge, Kennedy, McClammer, Belenz–NH; Crocker, Schneider–Staff UVLSRPC.

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

Adopt Minutes of October 15, 2018 Meeting – Lembke, Mudge second. Vote: Unanimous

Accept Financials October 2018 – Mudge, Lembke second. No comments. Vote: Unanimous.

Update – CT River Economy Conference – Discussion followed on the planning of a conference on the outdoor economy. If we were to just move forward would be about a half – day forum in the central Connecticut River Valley in the Claremont area. Key Note addresses about the subject and then move into breakout groups to identify challenges and opportunities in different economic sectors. The available funds would be used for a facilitator and a venue for the event. The other idea would be to apply for additional funding through USDA Rural Business Opportunity Activities grant program. Another approach would be to have the forum and then use that as the basis for an application to the USDA following that. Site: visit to a dam was an idea. Concepts and preparing a letter of intent for the forum is needed by January 4, 2019. Comms. Company and Belenz will put the draft together. Vote: Unanimous. Comm. Kennett plans to discuss with VT Deputy Comm. of Commerce at a meeting tomorrow.

Local River Subcommittees Update – Report – The discussions with Trout Unlimited was about habitat improvement. Invasive species was another common theme. On January 24 at the Montshire 6:30 p.m. there will be a presentation on knotweed. Four out of five subcommittees had speakers at their meetings which Commissioners found encouraging.

Relicensing Update / FERC Work Group – A meeting is underway today on the impacts of flow on various aquatic species. The revised final application is due in August 2019. It will be complete when FERC approves; followed by and EIS and the 401 Water Quality Certifications. Flowage rights established early in the history of the dams.

New Business – Finance Committee Recommend Approval of the 990 and the annual financial statements following a presentation by Heidi St. Peter and David Dattilio, CPAs. Comm. Lembke moved to approve that the 990 and financial statement as submitted by the auditors seconded by Comm. Mudge. Vote: Unanimous.

Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund – There was \$4 million distributed for projects in New Hampshire, including land protection on the Connecticut River. Comm. Belenz was in contact with Rick Walling agreed to continue to be the CRJC representative. General updates will be provided. Comm. Belenz is also on that committee.

Water Resources Plan – Comm. Chute discussed response to a survey he sent out to identify current priorities among the numerous recommendations for safeguarding water resources developed by CRJC and its five local river subcommittees ten years ago. The 400 or so recommendations fell under 23 broad categories identified by Comm. Chute. He asked commissioners to identify and discuss the 10 items with the highest priority. One of the first things to consider is how legislation has changed in the past ten years.

NH DES is very on top of the shoreland issues. The new riparian buffers brochure has been developed and distributed in adjacent communities. In VT, the areas are not reviewed by local river subcommittees. VT has river corridor requirements – an inventory of what has happened in each of the areas identified would be advisable. Identifying and acting on the recommendations in the corridor management plan.

A strategic planning effort was discussed in connection with the River Corridor Management Plan. The next step would be receiving feed back by using the spread sheet as survey in constant contact. Comm. Chute will send to staff to work on this.

February 25, 2019 – Meeting Agenda (Note: Third Monday is Presidents Day)
Survey/Poll of members for permanent change of day or time for the meetings.
Strategic Planning Discussion
Reserve Fund Policy
Update on USDA Grant

Invite Olivia to talk about subcommittees

DES changes suggested to bylaws

EC Agenda – RFP Management

Adjourn: Comm. Lembke and Comm. Rasmussen moved to adjourn at 4:00 p.m.

Adopted: February 25, 2019.