



MINUTES

Connecticut River Joint Commissions

Suite 225, 10 Water Street, Lebanon, NH 03766

Monday, February 25, 2019 ~ 1:00 - 4:00 PM

2:00 PM Full Commissions Meeting Agenda – Business Meeting

Commissioners Present: Lembke, Campany, Rasmussen–VT; Chute, Griffin, Kennedy, McClammer, Belenzs–NH; Crocker, Uyizeye, Schneider–Staff UVLSRPC.

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

Adopt Minutes of December 17, 2018 Meeting – Lembke, Mudge second. Vote: Unanimous

Accept Financials December 2018 – Comm. Campany moved to accept financials as presented, Comm. Rasmussen Seconded motion. Vote: Unanimous.

Update – CT River Economy Conference – Comm. Belenzs spoke of the contact with USDA inquiring about the specific geographic area to be addressed in the application. His thought was that it would be towns on each side of the river that abut the river and that we should submit the application through NH USDA.

Local Water Resources Survey – Discussion followed on the topics to be selected. Opinions varied on topics with all these being equally important. Water quality rose to the top of the list as the topic to focus on for the upcoming several months. Water quality monitoring if done has to be done well. Comm. Kennedy suggested that the bigger picture issues such as the listing the flat areas that are considered impaired for phosphorous. Comm. Campany moved and Comm. McClammer seconded a motion to focus on water quality for the next 6 months. Vote: Unanimous.

Local River Subcommittees Update – The Headwaters meeting was cancelled since there were no proposed permits. They will meet again in the spring. Riverbend will meet in April with a speaker from Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust. Upper Valley is meeting tonight. The Westboro Rail Yard is a topic of concern as the loading facilities will be within the NH shoreland protection area. Dartmouth is digging a large hole to

build a parking garage and the excavated material is being shipped to Vermont. The material is being placed in an old gravel pit. Questions were raised as to whether this activity is regulated and is permitted. Comm. Company suggested staff contact Kevin Geiger at TRORC to determine permit status. Mt. Ascutney is meeting on March 12. They will have speaker on educating homeowners on flood resilience. Wantastiquet subcommittee is trying to recruit new members. Several new people on the VT side have begun to volunteer and expressed interests in more regular meetings.

Discussion followed on how focus on Water Quality over the next 6 months will impact the efforts of the local river subcommittees. Company suggested the LRS might have representatives on the Vermont Local Clean Water Initiatives based in the RPCs.

Comm. McClammer moved and Comm. Company seconded to add Andrew White as a representative from Vernon to the Wantastiquet Local River Subcommittee. Vote: Unanimous.

Relicensing Update / FERC Work Group – Comm. Griffin mentioned that two studies on instream flow have had their time extended. FERC has revised the schedule and Great River Hydro will file Study Report Addenda for Studies 9 and 24 by May 20, 2019. They will be reaching out to the aquatics working group to determine if another meeting is needed. They have looked at the base case model run and what going from the minimum flow to the upper flow cause changes to habitat in each of the three reaches. A Study Report meeting with all stakeholders will take place on the final report by June 4, 2019.

Strategic Planning RFP – Comm. Lembke explained that the Executive Committee would like to employ a professional facilitator to help with Strategic Visioning and Planning. They have asked for comments on a draft RFP and asked for support of the Commissioners for this endeavor. Comm. Chute moved that the Executive Committee move forward with drafting an RFP to go forward contingent on seeing the final document prior to issuance. The motion was seconded by Comm. Kennedy. Vote: Unanimous.

Administrative Management Discussion – The Executive Committee has requested and UVLSRPC has agreed to renew the current agreement with CRJC for another fiscal year. This will give CRJC time to complete the strategic planning process. The Commissioners thanked UVLSRPC for its willingness to renew for another year.

Reserve Fund Policy/Bylaws Updates – Action on Policy and Bylaw Updates is deferred until the spring meeting.

New Business – On February 14, 2019, the new proposed rule for defining Waters of the US were issued by the EPA and these are open for public comments in the Federal Register on Page 4154; FR Vol. 84 / No. 31 of February 14, 2019. Comm. McClammer will draft a letter of comment on behalf of the CRJC to be reviewed by the Executive Committee at its next meeting on March 17. Staff will share the FR page to encourage comments as individuals. The link is located:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0149-0003>

Doodle Poll for Preferred meeting date and time from commissioners – Comm. Lembke requested that Staff poll the members for best date and time for future CRJC meetings.

Adjourn – Comm. Belenz moved to adjourn, seconded by Comm. Rasmussen at 4:15 PM.

Adopted: April 15, 2019