



Minutes

Connecticut River Joint Commissions

Virtual Meeting – Zoom

Monday, June 15, 2020 ~ 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Virtual meeting requirement review:

The President of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions has found that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID – 19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor’s Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020–04, the CRJC and its Committees are authorized to meet electronically. Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting which was authorized pursuant to the Governor’s Emergency Order. The CRJC is utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Commissions have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting as follows:

Online Access: – Join Zoom Meeting

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: CRJC UVLSRPC's Zoom Meeting

Time: Jun 15, 2020 02:15 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87266369241?pwd=NGNRRUtCZHhXUE11RXdFdWVKZGpEUT09>

Meeting ID: 872 6636 9241

Password: 374832

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87266369241?pwd=NGNRRUtCZHhXUE11RXdFdWVKZGpEUT09> If anyone has a problem accessing the meeting, please call (802–457–3218) or email pcrocker@uvlsrpc.org In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

These instructions have also been provided on the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Website: <http://www.uvlsrpc.org>

Minutes

Present: VT–Steve Lembke, Chris Campany, Beth Kennett, Jason Rasmussen, Jessica Richter, Tara Bamford. NH – Jim Kennedy, Ted Cooley, Lionel Chute, Jennifer Griffin, Ed Smith, Alex Belensz.

2:00 PM State Caucuses 15 Mins Instructions & Agenda Separate

The NH Commissioners elected Lionel Chute, Chair; Ken Hastings, Vice Chair; Jennifer Griffin, Secy.–Treas.

The VT Commissioners elected Chris Campany, Chair; Marie Caduto, Vice Chair; Jason Rasmussen, Secy.–Treas.

2:20 PM BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of June 1 – Comm. Smith moved approval of the minutes as presented. Comm. McClammer Seconded. Comm. Griffin noted the need to complete Comm. Rasmussen’s name in the attendee list.

Roll Call Vote Taken: Unanimous.

Financial Report – The April financial report had been accepted at the June 1 meeting and the May report was not yet available.

Caucus Results and Election of CRJC Officers for FY 2021 – Noting the Caucus outcomes above, Comms. Kennedy and Bamford proposed the election of the following slate of officers for FY 2021.

President Lionel Chute; Vice President Chris Campany, Treasurer Jennifer Griffin and Secretary Jason Rasmussen.

Comm. Bamford moved the election of the slate of officers. Comm. Richter seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Unanimous.

Funding Updates – Comm. Lembke outlined the history of the Vermont Funding cuts of 40% in FY 20 and 100% in FY 21. He reported on his discussions with VT ANR Commissioner Julie Moore who explained that all earmarked funding for stand-alone organizations had been cut from the budget. He had subsequent conversations with a variety of legislators explaining that there had been little or no communication with the CRJC on either of these funding cuts. Although our 2021 fiscal year will begin without VT funding, local and State of Vermont legislators have pledged to revisit our funding request in August as they prepare the budget for the last three quarters of the FY 2021.

The NH funding is in the second year of a biennial contract and there has been no information to indicate that it will be impacted by the current budget discussions.

Budget and Work Plan Review and Adoption – Comm. Lembke worked with UVLSRPC staff to craft a budget that provided adequate support for the required baseline tasks within the NH agreement. He explained the cuts in terms of hours and direct expenses that were necessary. The document including budget and work plan reflecting the cuts was presented to the Commissioners for adoption.

Comm. Chute moved to adopt the budget presented. Comm. Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and was Unanimous.

Strategic Plan Review and Next Steps – Comm. Lembke discussed the process that had taken the better part of the last year. The process produced a road map for CRJC for the next five years. A copy of the plan is appended to the minutes.

Outline of Possible Future Special Project – Comm. Campany and Lembke spoke about a potential project identified in the strategic planning process on the impacts of migration from cities following the pandemic and its economic, infrastructure, and land use regulations within in the Connecticut River Valley and its watershed.

Comm. Lembke and Campany will be following up on implementation details once there is more certainty around funding and COVID 19 emergency rules in the future.

Local River Subcommittee Update – Olivia Uyizeye presented the report. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes. Five new LRS members were unanimously approved for appointment.

President's Remarks

Outgoing President – Steve Lembke thanked the Commissioners and staff for their extraordinary commitment to working through the strategic planning process and helping produce a good plan for CRJC's future.

He thanked Comm. Belenz who will be leaving the Commission as he is now a full-time employee of the UVLSRPC. He also thanked Comm. McClammer for his tireless multi-year leadership regarding the FERC relicensing process. Comm. McClammer explained that he will be stepping back at this point in time and wished for CRJC's future success.

Incoming President – Lionel Chute thanked Comm. Lembke for his leadership during the past year and for completion of the strategic plan. He encouraged commissioners to undertake rolls that used their personal skills and passions to help fill critical gaps resulting from budget cuts. He thanked staff for their continuity and creative ideas.

Other Business – Comm. Kennedy reported on concerns about permitting protocols and suggested that CRJC should comment on these rules during the upcoming public comment period. Staff will share the link to rules changes on the DES website. Comm. Kennedy volunteered to draft a letter of testimony and distribute to Commissioners and LACs. In response to a question, Comm. Griffin commented on the status of the FERC relicensing. The application is expected to be filed at the end of July.

Adjourn – Comm. Smith moved to adjourn at 4:10 PM seconded by Comm. McClammer.

Note: Next Joint Commissions meeting will be in September. Dates for the coming fiscal year will be distributed at a later date via e-mail.

Adopted: June 15, 2020