



## Connecticut River Joint Commissions

Monday, May 20, 2019

CRJC Offices, 10 Water St. Lebanon, NH

Executive Committee Meeting / 2:00–4:00 P.M.

### Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Jim McClammer, Tara Bamford, Jason Rasmussen, Steven Lembke, Chris Company, and Lionel Chute.

**Approve March 18, 2019 EC Minutes** Comm. Lembke moved approval of the minutes as presented, Comm. Company seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.

**Follow-up April 2019 Joint Commissions Meeting** – All Items discussed were addressed or in process.

**Accept April 2019 Financials** – Comm. Company moved acceptance of the financials. Comm. Lembke seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

**Status of Contract and Work Plan** – Comm. Company moved to have the Executive Committee deliberate on compensating UVLSRPC for some portion of the additional time spent by staff and accept staff's plan to work only on minimum items through the end of the contract year. Comm. Rasmussen seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

**Review Reserve Policy** – Comm. Company moved the policy be adopted. Comm. Rasmussen seconded a motion to recommend to the full commission at the June meeting.

**Report from Nominating Committee** – Comm. Bamford reported that all VT members were willing to continue. Comm. Kennedy is still working on the NH slate.

**Review Response to RFP for Strategic Planning** – Discussion followed on the response to the RFP. Comm. Company moved to decline the offer proposed as it was not responsive. Comm. Lembke seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Discussion followed on how to proceed with a strategic planning exercise. What function is still needed from the CRJC? It was thought important to come up with a plan for the CRJC in its entirety. Discussion followed on the work of the subcommittees. CRJC has a very important function in NH with its permit review responsibilities. Comm. Company stated that in his view on the Vermont side of the river, the river corridor planning work, and water quality grant applications, is likely now redundant because of the involvement of RPCs, in collaboration with watershed organizations and conservation districts, in the basin planning and project prioritization process. This will likely be further refined this legislative session. He suggested a more meaningful area of work of the CRJC could be a bi-state regional plan for the Connecticut River. We should look at all the water quality legislation that is current in the two states to see how these have evolved since CRJC's inception. Comm. Chute suggested having someone from within the group facilitate a strategic planning exercise.

The Executive Committee consensus was to continue with the plan proposed by Comm. Chute to focus on water quality through the end of the calendar year.

Comm. Lembke asked each executive committee member to prepare their thoughts in writing about next steps prior to the July Executive Committee meeting.

Comm. Bamford suggested that CRJC reach out to the NH Center for Non-profits and Marlboro College to see if they have resources available to help CRJC. She offered to follow up on those two options.

**Update on Grant Applications** – Grant applications have been submitted to USDA to conduct a comprehensive economic forum, NH Charitable Foundation and Claremont Savings Bank for Strategic Planning, and the SAM.GOV registration has been renewed and will be valid for 3 years. All applications are complete and responses pending.

**Connecticut River Economy Forum** – Brief Update – Discussion followed on the grants. Gov registration and time taken to complete that and the back up documents in conjunction with the application that Comm. Belenz completed. A response is pending.

**FERC Relicensing Status Report** – FERC has authorized the continued license until the FERC acts on new license applications. The instream flow report study is due today The report does not set operating procedures but provides additional flow scenarios and resulting quantity of habitat for target species.

**By Laws** – Changes are largely to align with statutes in NH. Comm. Campany moved to recommend the bylaw amendment with Executive Committee endorsement to full Commission, Comm. Rasmussen seconded. Vote: Motion Carries. Comm. McClammer abstained.

### **June Joint Commissions Annual Meeting – Agenda**

- a. Bylaw Amendment
- b. Budget
- c. RFP – Response
- d. State Caucuses
- e. Schedule for the Year
- f. Speakers on Water Quality (Forward Chute document to speakers)

**New/Other Business – Approval of Letters** – 1. Support for Farmers – Comm. Lembke moved to approve and Comm. Rasmussen seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Staff will send letter to FERC.

2. Letter on federal jurisdiction over point source discharges to navigable waters through groundwater: The EPA proposes to reduce authority over discharges that contaminate surface waters. This is part of an effort to weaken the Federal Clean Waters Act. – Due date is June 7. Policy changes that reduce protection for water quality. Comm. Bamford suggested language referencing the two state commissions be corrected. The letter will be circulated to all Commissioners to keep them informed of the activity. Comm. Lembke moved that letter go out, Comm. Rasmussen seconded. Vote: Unanimous. The letter will be circulated for feedback to all Commissioners.

**Adjourn** – Comm. Rasmussen moved to adjourn at 4:30. Comm. Lembke seconded. Vote: Unanimous

**Adopted: July 15, 2019**