

Upper Valley Subcommittee
of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions
January 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Video Conference Call

NH Members:	Present	Absent
Alice Creagh, Hanover, NH		X
Vacancy, Hanover, NH		
Eric Agterberg, Lebanon, NH		X
Ruth Bleyler, Lebanon, NH		X
Bruce Garland, Lebanon, NH (alt)	X	
Bill Malcolm, Lyme, NH	X	
Vacancy, Lyme, NH		
Ted Cooley, Orford, NH	X	
Carl Schmidt, Orford, NH	X	
Karyn Brown, Piermont, NH		X
Helga Mueller, Piermont, NH		X

VT Members:	Present	Absent
Vacancies, Bradford, VT		
Ben Dana, Fairlee, VT	X	
Vacancy, Fairlee, VT		
Danielle Allen, Fairlee, VT (alt)		X
David Barrell, Hartford, VT		X
Lynn Bohi, Hartford, VT	X	
Tara Bamford, Thetford, VT	X	
Bill Bridge, Thetford, VT		X
Linda Matteson, Thetford, VT (alt)		X
Vacancies, Norwich, VT		

Olivia Uyizeye, Staff from UVLSRPC

Minutes

1. Welcome & Introductions

Vice-Chair Lynn Bohi called the meeting, conducted via conference call, to order at 7:03 PM under the emergency provisions of RSA 91-A, New Hampshire's Right-to-Know law, as allowed by Emergency Order 11 under Executive Order 2020-04 in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Vice-Chair Bohi conducted a roll call of LAC members, invited any guests to introduce themselves, and welcomed all present.

2. November Meeting Minutes

Bohi opens up discussion on the November meeting minutes. Bamford makes a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Schmidt seconds the motion. The vote passes unanimous by roll call vote.

3. Permit Review

a. Wetlands Standard Permit, Romano Cir, Lebanon (2020-02659)

Bohi opens up discussion on the Lebanon permit. Bamford discusses the culvert structure that outfalls to the Connecticut River and the vegetation along the bank. Bamford indicates that the NHDES RFMI asked for more information about the bank treatment along the culvert outfall area. Bamford suggests writing a letter that highlights this point and concern, reiterating the perspectives shared by the Lebanon Conservation Commission.

Bohi asks Garland if he has heard anything on the Lebanon Planning Board or from residents in the City of Lebanon. Garland responds that the permit did not come to the planning board and he has not heard anything independently.

Garland makes a motion to write a comment letter to NHDES with comments as expressed by Bamford. Cooley seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimous by roll call vote. Bamford offers to draft the comment letter.

4. Officer Elections

Bohi opens up discussion on the officer elections. Uyizeye indicates that multiple members declined nominations. Malcolm was nominated and accepted the nomination for chair. Bamford was nominated and accepted the nominations for co-chair or vice-chair. Uyizeye suggests a conversation both on member and officer roles prior to the formal vote.

Malcolm expresses concerns about losing the expertise from Jim Kennedy and the challenges faced in receiving digital copies that can be shared with all members on a timely basis. Other members reiterated these concerns, particularly on the topic of digital copies. Uyizeye will communicate with Tracie Sales from NHDES about whether requirements can be made of applicants to provide a digital copy to the LAC and also consider short term solutions that may improve receipt of permits in an accessible format.

Malcolm also suggests discussion about local members taking on site visit responsibilities for local permits. Schmidt indicates that, although he has on occasion visited some sites on his own, it has not been without prior communication with the property owner. In at least one instance not long ago, Schmidt accompanied Jim Kennedy. Uyizeye adds that in lieu or addition to a site visit, applicants can join the normal public meeting to discuss the application and respond to comments/questions.

Bamford makes a motion to nominate Malcolm as chair. Cooley seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimous by roll call vote. Malcolm makes a motion to nominate Bamford as vice-chair. Cooley seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimous by roll call vote. Bohi passes over the active meeting chair position to Malcolm.

5. Other Updates & Business

a. Commissioners Update

Bamford shares that the Commissioners will meet next week.

b. Water Quality Grant

The site that I recommend is on the Connecticut River just downstream of the White and Mascoma Rivers for total nitrates, total phosphorus and chlorides. It will need to be tested once a month for 5 months and samples need to be received within 24hours of sampling. The samples will likely need to be dropped off at Endyne Labs in Lebanon. Another option is Grant Brook.

Orford Conservation Commission is involved in monitoring along another water body and may consider something at the Orford boat launch on the Connecticut River.

Malcolm is also interested in testing around both rivers that outfall from Lyme into the Connecticut River. Uyizeye will share a list of monitoring sites from NHDES as a starting point when considering future monitoring

c. Riverwide Speaker Series

Uyizeye shares an update on the current series of 4 public events starting in March, all to be done virtually via zoom. The time was chosen that had the least conflict among LRS members. Video recordings of events will be available for a week after the presentation.

#1 River Paths for Wildlife

MARCH 23, 6-730PM

Dr. Dave Patrick with the Nature Conservancy will discuss how the Connecticut River offers a natural migration route for plants and animals; a capacity shown historically and with rising importance in response to climate change. Riparian areas — areas of habitat along the banks of rivers and streams — are known to be used by both and small mammals. These regions also benefit insects, birds and other species looking for cooler, moister terrain as conditions become less habitable.

Dr. Pam Hunt with NH Audubon will dive in deeper to how birds, especially waterfowl, benefit from the Connecticut River's landscape. Migration is a challenging journey for birds, made possible by healthy stop-over sites to rest and refuel along the way. Learn about some of our common birds migration habitats, why they do it and how they arrive here year after year.

#2 Future of Invasive Species Management

MAY 25, 6-730PM

Kimberly Jensen (VT DEC) and Amy Smagula (NH DES)

#3 A History of the Connecticut River

SEPTEMBER 28, 6-730PM

Adair Mulligan (Hanover Conservancy)

#4 Water Quality and Innovative Green Infrastructure

NOVEMBER 30, 6-730PM

Speaker TBD

d. Outreach Campaign – Public Article

Uyizeye asks members who have not yet done so to please send her photos and a quote for inclusion in outreach. Uyizeye asks for members support in distribution. Bamford indicates that members should be able to take responsibility for their own communities. There is general agreement from other members. Uyizeye will look into social media to figure out the best strategy for members to directly push content. Malcolm suggests making a press release.

6. Great River Hydro FERC Application

Bamford suggests asking Kathy Urffer (CRC) and Katie Kennedy (TNC) to attend the next UV meeting. Uyizeye agrees to coordinate

7. Adjourn

Cooley makes a motion to adjourn. Garland seconds the motion. The vote passes unanimous by roll call vote.

Respectfully Submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.