



***Connecticut River Joint Commissions – FY 2020 Annual Report  
July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020***

Suite 225, 10 Water St., Lebanon, NH 03766.

Website at <http://www.crjc.org>

CRJC continues its mission to preserve the visual and ecological integrity and working landscape of the Connecticut River Valley. With five local subcommittees and over 100 volunteers, CRJC is guiding the watershed's growth by reviewing and commenting on hydro-electric dam relicensing, regulatory proposals, shoreland protection, and initiatives on clean water.

CRJC continues to bring policy makers from both states and the public together to keep them abreast of the issues facing the Connecticut River Watershed. This year CRJC engaged with the "Rails-to-Trails Conservancy" who envisions a connected trail network of roads and highways throughout northern New England. There are 60 miles along the Connecticut River in both New Hampshire and Vermont that the Conservancy believes might be identified as part of a trails network.

CRJC completed a Strategic Plan 2020-2025 which builds on over 30 years of experience in engaging communities in the Connecticut River Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire in a "shared commitment to safeguard a good place and a good life." (Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan, 1997)

The CRJC is a quasi-governmental organization composed of Governor-appointed and designated Commissioners from Vermont and New Hampshire, and the parent organization to five Local River Subcommittees. They may represent different interests, but are united in a shared regard of the Connecticut River, the surrounding landscape, and the ecosystem as a whole. Together, they identify and pursue collaborative efforts that safeguard the Valley.



We anticipate the Connecticut River Valley will see substantial growth related to migration from metropolitan areas to our east and south driven by climate change and sea level rise, as well as the current pandemic. The need for facilitated cooperation and coordination between the two states on development within the watershed will only increase. The actions proposed in this plan leverage the group's strongest assets: the passion and commitment of the volunteer members and Commissioners, and its statutorily-enabled purpose and connection to state government.

In the short term, these strategic leverage points will build internal capacity to help sustain the organization. Over time and amidst those global challenges, the CRJC intends to continue serving communities of the Valley by helping to guide the growth and development in a way that conserves landscape integrity and stewards the use of its natural resources. The CRJC is well-situated to play a convening and advocating role, and understands that this work is most effective in partnership with existing organizations and initiatives. The CRJC values connection, advocacy, and mutual support, and is therefore dedicated to elevating collective efforts and collaborating with like-minded partners.

A copy of the full plan can be viewed or downloaded here: [http://www.crjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CRJC\\_StrategicPlan\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.crjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CRJC_StrategicPlan_FINAL.pdf)

CRJC gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to complete the strategic plan and the facilitation of Emily Davis of Brattleboro, Vermont.

The current Executive Committee of the Joint Commissions are; Lionel Chute, President (NH); Christopher Campany, Vice President (VT); Jennifer Griffin, Treasurer (NH); Jason Rasmussen, Secretary (VT); Ken Hastings, (NH); Marie Caduto (VT); and Steven Lembke, Immediate Past President (VT). The Commission currently has several openings available for residents of both New Hampshire and Vermont. For more information on responsibilities and the appointment process e-mail [contact@crjc.org](mailto:contact@crjc.org)

For more information on CRJC see <http://www.crjc.org>.



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### ***CRJC Headwaters Subcommittee Annual Report - 2020***

The Headwaters Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets quarterly and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by participating municipalities, with allowance for alternates. Since March 2020, the Subcommittee has met via video conference call and continues to do while state emergency orders are active due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Current members of Vermont are Tom Caron from Canaan, with openings in Lemington, Bloomfield, Brunswick, and Maidstone. Current members of New Hampshire are Kevin McKinnon from Colebrook, Kenneth Hastings and Lucas Deblois from Columbia, Ed Mellett and Dale Covey from Northumberland, Alan R. Williams from Pittsburg, Jamie Sayen and Clayton Macdonald from Stratford, and openings in Stewartstown & Clarksville. Those with only one representative have an opening for a second volunteer.

The Subcommittee provides a local voice to help steward the resources on or affecting a portion of the Connecticut River, particularly on topics related to the maintenance of good water quality and wildlife habitat. Meeting and events are open to the public. The Subcommittee is one of five that make up the Connecticut River Joint Commissions since 1989. Specific responsibilities include providing feedback to NH Department of Environmental Services, VT Agency of Natural Resources and municipalities on matters pertaining to the river; reviewing and commenting on proposed permits and plans; and maintaining a corridor management plan.

The Subcommittee stayed up to date and commented on a number of issues including Vermont basin management plans, changes to the NH wetlands permitting process, CRJC strategic plan, and projects by the Connecticut River Conservancy. The Subcommittee reviewed and commented on a series of permits or activities including invasive species management using glyphosate; trail maintenance in Pittsburg; and new campground and pump station upgrade in Stewartstown. The Subcommittee discussed the use of glyphosate in regards to environmental and public health impacts, as well as federal, state and local regulations on the issue.

If you or someone in your community is interested in learning about or contributing to river management for the watershed, including serving as a liaison to the Headwaters Subcommittee, please contact our staff support Olivia Uyizeye at [ouyizeye@uvlsrc.org](mailto:ouyizeye@uvlsrc.org) or visit our website at [www.crjc.org](http://www.crjc.org) to learn more.



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### ***CRJC Riverbend Subcommittee Annual Report - 2020***

The Riverbend Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets every two months and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by participating municipalities, with allowance for alternates. Since March 2020, the Subcommittee has met via video conference call and continues to do while state emergency orders are active due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Current members of Vermont are Bill Graves and John Fairchild from Barnet, Deborah Noble from Concord, Scott Labun from Newbury, Mary Dole from Ryegate, William Piper from Waterford, and openings in Guildhall & Lunenburg. Current members of New Hampshire are Rick Walling from Bath, Michael Crosby and Gal Potashnick from Dalton, Pauline Corzilius and Lewis Dale from Haverhill, Rob Christie from Lancaster, Jim Sherrard and Jan Edick from Littleton, and Ken Hunter from Monroe. Those with one representative have an opening for a second volunteer.

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The Subcommittee stayed up to date and commented on a number of issues including Vermont basin management plans, changes to the NH wetlands permitting process, and CRJC strategic plan. Chair Rick Walling has been authorized to sign off on NH minimum impact notification, registration, or expedited wetlands permit applications. The Subcommittee reviewed and commented on a series of permits including substation, electric corridor maintenance, and dock replacement in Monroe; driveway through a wetland complex in Lunenburg; and culvert replacement in Lancaster. In June, Belinda Emmons presented about her wildlife photography in the Connecticut River Valley. Members are pursuing a water quality monitoring program for the 2021 season. Members vocalized interest in bolstering LRS review of relevant Vermont permits.

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### ***CRJC Upper Valley Subcommittee Annual Report - 2020***

The Upper Valley Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets every two months and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by participating municipalities, with allowance for alternates. Since March 2020, the Subcommittee has met via video conference call and continues to while state emergency orders are active due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Current members of Vermont are Ben Dana from Fairlee; Lynn Bohi and David Barrell from Hartford; Bill Bridge, Tara Bamford and Linda Matteson (alternate) from Thetford; and openings in Bradford & Norwich. Current members of New Hampshire are Alice Creagh from Hanover; Ruth Bleyler, Eric Agterberg and Bruce Garland (alternate) from Lebanon; Bill Malcolm from Lyme; Carl Schmidt and Edmond Cooley from Orford; and Karyn Brown and Helga Mueller from Piermont. During 2020, Jim Kennedy from Hanover served as chair and Lynn Bohi of Hartford served as vice-chair. Those communities with one representative have an opening for a second volunteer.

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The Subcommittee stayed up to date and commented on a number of issues including Vermont basin management plans, changes to the NH wetlands permitting process, and CRJC's new strategic plan. The Subcommittee recommended the incorporation of increased training for road crews, which was incorporated into the basin plan. The Subcommittee reviewed and commented on a series of permits and activities including Quail Hollow Phase V and Westboro rail yard in Lebanon; new dock in Hanover; boathouse in Lyme; and a new home and application of glyphosate in Lyme. Letters were submitted for each review, including comments on the incorporation of living shoreline techniques, tree removal, consideration of brownfields and pollutant run-off.

If you or someone in your community is interested in learning about or contributing to river management for the watershed, including serving as a liaison to the Upper Valley Subcommittee, please contact our staff support Olivia Uyizeye at [ouyizeye@uvlsrpc.org](mailto:ouyizeye@uvlsrpc.org) or visit our website at [www.crjc.org](http://www.crjc.org) to learn more.



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### ***CRJC Mount Ascutney Subcommittee Annual Report - 2020***

The Mount Ascutney Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets every two months and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by participating municipalities, with allowance for alternates. Since March 2020, the Subcommittee has met via video conference call and continues to do while state emergency orders are active due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Current members of Vermont are Cordelia Merritt and Judy Howland from Hartland, Thomas Hernon and Margaret Perry from Rockingham, William Manner and Kelly Stettner from Springfield, Howard Beach from Weathersfield, and Michael Metivier from Windsor. Current members of New Hampshire are Janice Lambert and John Streeter from Charlestown, Matt Maki from Claremont, Colleen O'Neill and Bill Gallagher from Cornish, and Elise Angelillo and David Taylor from Plainfield. Those with only one representative have an opening for a second volunteer.

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The Subcommittee stayed up to date and commented on a number of issues including Vermont basin management plans, changes to the NH wetlands permitting process, and CRJC strategic plan. The Subcommittee reviewed and commented on a series of permits or activities including the Cornish covered bridge; Ashley ferry boat landing and proposed construction & debris facility in Claremont; and electric corridor maintenance. In March, the LRS hosted a presentation by Skip Lisle on his work installing beaver deceivers to reduce human-beaver conflict. Representatives are following progress on a state installed beaver deceiver in Weathersfield and the presence of aquatic invasive species, especially flowering rush. The Subcommittee is evolving their annual septic smart event to include videos to be showcased in 2021.

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### ***CRJC Wantastiquet Subcommittee Annual Report - 2020***

The Wantastiquet Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets every two months and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by participating municipalities, with allowance for alternates. Since March 2020, the Subcommittee has met via video conference call and continues to do while state emergency orders are active due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Current members of Vermont are Kathy Urffer and Michael Fairchild from Brattleboro, Daniel Marx from Dummerston, Andy White from Vernon, Paul Harlow and Jim Calchera from Westminster, and openings in Putney. Current members of New Hampshire are Roland Volbehr from Chesterfield, Mike Darcy from Hinsdale, Samantha Loch from Walpole, and Perry Sawyer from Westmoreland. Those with one representative have an opening for a second volunteer.

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The Subcommittee stayed up to date and commented on a number of issues including Vermont basin management plans, changes to the NH wetlands permitting process, CRJC strategic plan, and Hinsdale Brattleboro Existing Bridges Subcommittee. The Subcommittee reviewed and commented on a series of permits including NH119 Hinsdale bridge maintenance, boat dock in West Chesterfield, and river restoration in Walpole. Letters were submitted, including comments on an improved boat launch, educational signage, culvert replacement, and boat washing station. The Subcommittee enacted a water quality monitoring pilot at five sites along the Connecticut River this past summer 2020 with hopes to continue in 2021. The subcommittee welcomes resident participation in the monitoring that takes place one day per month. Members discussed an increase of river users this past year and local efforts to improve emergency services access to the river. Members vocalized interest in bolstering LRS review of VT permits.

If you or someone in your community is interested in learning about or contributing to river management for the watershed, including serving as a liaison to the Wantastiquet Subcommittee or helping with water quality monitoring, please contact our staff support Olivia Uyizeye at [uyizeye@uvlsrc.org](mailto:uyizeye@uvlsrc.org) or visit our website at [www.crjc.org](http://www.crjc.org) to learn more.