



Connecticut River Joint Commissions

Monday, May 10, 2021

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Executive Committee – 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Minutes

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:

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

Topic: CRJC Executive Committee

Time: May 10, 2021 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Minutes

Monday, May 10, 2021

1:00 – 2:00 PM

1:00 – Convene

Minutes of April 19 Meeting

Comm. Rasmussen moved to adopt the minutes of the April 19 meeting as presented. Comm. Caduto seconded the motion. Motion carried with Comm. Griffin abstaining as not present at the April meeting.

Financial Update – Budget – Workplan

Comm. Chute reported on his meetings with the New Hampshire Commission and with Ted Diers and Tracie Sales of NH DES. The purpose of the meeting was to determine whether the funding from NH could be used strictly for the CRVRC purposes and not include any administrative functions of the Joint Commissions. The proposal was based upon the lack of funding from the State of Vermont to Support the Joint Commissions. Discussion of a partial contract with UVLSRPC occurred. He suggested suspension of CRJC as a 501c 3 non-profit could be considered. Comm. Chute reported on two meetings of the CRVRC at which to the NH Commission to continue with a partial contract for \$9,500 for 3 months to continue operating for three months beyond July 1 with funding from NH only. He will create a scope of work that cover the work for that period. A final decision on how to proceed and discussion will be continued at the June Joint Commissions meeting with all Commissioners present.

Staff presented the revised work plan and budget including an anticipated budget over run of approximately \$3,325.00. Commissioners Rasmussen and Bamford noted that the Executive Committee cannot amend the budget. Comm. Lembke recommended that the Executive Committee recommend that the overage be covered from reserves. He also state keeping CRJC active was essential and that one half of the reserves be used to keep CRJC in business if Vermont funding did not come through. The topic will be on the agenda for the June 21 meeting.

Comm. Campany moved that the amount of the overage taken from the reserves not exceed \$3,500. Comm. Caduto seconded the motion. The funds will cover work needed to be completed through June 30, 2021. Vote: Unanimous.

Discussion continued on the interim funding. Comm. Rasmussen recommended that CRJC discuss with Meghan Butts what she would like to do for CRJC for that amount of funding. Comm. Campany recommended that the UVLSRPC Executive Director be included in the discussion of future contracting requirements.

Commissioner Caduto explained that an allocation of \$30,700 had been added to the state budget by the Vermont Senate. The budget has not been passed yet but more information should be available by early to mid-June.

CRJC Storage Space – Comm. Chute reported that he had found safe, available storage space for CRJC files at the Sanders Building at Sullivan County facility in Unity. These have been moved freeing up much needed space at the UVLSRPC.

Climate Migration Project – This presentation has been postponed until September or October when more data on climate migration and housing in the Connecticut River Valley should be available.

Nominating Committee Reports – Comm. Chute was intending to step down but he reported that since there were many violations of statute in the CRVRC operation his residency in Vermont was just one of them. He is willing to stay on as the UVLSRPC representative to CRJC if that is of interest. Meetings of both commissions need to take place to elect officers for each state commission and to nominate officers for CRJC.

Comm. Bamford noted that she is the VT nominating committee and Comm. Chute had agreed to be the NH nominating Comm. Each of these groups meet separately. Comm. Bamford state that in Vermont many have agreed to remain but the chair of CRJC had not been decided upon yet. Comm. Chute apologized for not working on the nominating Comm. He is currently the chair of CRVRC and Ken Hastings is the vice chair of CRVRC. Comm. Chute will have a discussion with the CRVRC members.

Comm. Bamford stated that she was not willing to nominate him as Vice President of CRJC in the interests of the non-profit corporation's operation.

June Joint Commissions/ State Commissions

Adopting another budget for CRJC and the approval of the partial funding should be on the agenda for June 21. Staff inquired about noticing the individual commission

meetings. Staff noted that the meetings usually occur prior to the main annual meeting.

Comm. Bamford noted that the individual commission meetings could occur earlier but the dates and times must be warned so that staff can post those for the public. Comm. Chute questioned Comm. Bamford about noticing these meetings. He stated that CRVRC did not notice the two meetings held the previous week and posed the question about what that means. Comm. Bamford stated that decisions made at unnoticed meetings are not valid.

Risk Management – Water Quality Testing Teams – Comm. Caduto moved to have all volunteers sign the waiver form before they can participate in the testing program. Comm. Lembke seconded that motion. Discussion followed on the type of face coverings. Comm. Company suggested the volunteers follow the most current state guidance in effect at the time. Comm. Caduto agreed to the amendment. Comm. Lembke seconded the amended motion. Vote: Unanimous

Website Status – The status of the site was discussed. At this point in time the site is visible and not pointing to the Chinese website. Renewal with Bluehost was discussed as an interim step. The Commissioners consensus was to have staff proceed with a renewal, investigate the cost of having a consultant repair the site, but basically deal with the website in the new fiscal year.

2:15 – Adjourn – Comm. Lembke moved to adjourn. Comm. Rasmussen seconded the motion. Vote: unanimous.

Audio recording of the meeting is available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fx-gTET-h3qKb_Z_qLWVOI9tQhbxh8dQ/view?usp=sharing