



Connecticut River Joint Commissions

Monday, October 19, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Executive Committee – 1:00 – 3:00 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: Oct 19, 2020 1:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89484119091?pwd=eFB1K01XUEJTU3QwMkn2K0doZ3lvQT09>

Meeting ID: 894 8411 9091

Passcode: 900621

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)



Connecticut River Joint Commissions

Monday, October 19, 2020

Zoom

Virtual Meeting

Executive Committee – 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Present: Lionel Chute, Jason Rasmussen, Ken Hastings, Steve Lembke, Jennifer Griffin, Marie Caduto, Chris Company, Neil Kamman, and Patricia Crocker.

1:00 – Convene

Approval of Minutes August 17, 2020 Comm. Lembke moved to approve the minutes seconded by Comm. Company. Vote: Unanimous

Discussion – Comm. Chute called the meeting to order beginning with introductions. Neil Kamman, Director, Water Investment Division, VTDEC engaged in a discussion with Commissioners about advancement of mutual goals for the VT ANR Water Division and the CRJC as a bi-state Commission. He explained the VT ANR which engages with the tributaries into the Connecticut River through the RPCs and tactical basin plans. He expressed interest in the value on the ground insight of the local river subcommittees of the CRJC.

The status of the VT Sunset Advisory Committee was discussed. Mr. Kamman noted that the ANR had a slight hiccup in its testimony with the inclusion of an incomplete draft. They have since submitted revised testimony that included the input by Comm. Caduto.

Comm. Company explained the local advisory role of the subcommittees that he felt were complimentary to rather than duplicative to the administrative rules with ANR. They should explore various opportunities to work together on the nature of the pressures of growth on the Upper Valley as people move to the north and the ANR perspective around the pressures on water supply and quality.

Comm. Company suggested that the CRJC could convene a meeting among the CRJC NH and VT agencies. He suggested that the VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) might also be engaged in discussions about regional and municipal planning which is within the ACCD. Comm. Company said he would assist with organizing the meeting among the VT Agencies and the VT Commissioners.

Mr. Kamman explained that he was not fully aware of the relationship between NH DES and CRJC in terms of permit review. The processes of the two states are quite different.

Comm. Chute noted that the Watershed Management Plan made suggestions about how CRJC might bridge the gap in communications between the States. Comm. Rasmussen inquired whether CRJC might assist ANR with joint goals. The Long Island Sound TMDL and managing nitrogen and phosphorous production and to be recognized for cooperation towards protecting the Long Island Sound.

He explained the organization of VT's clean water program through watershed basins, but there is no responsible group established for the main stem of the Connecticut. Discussion followed on sedimentation and nutrients management and loss of spawning habitat on the Connecticut. It was suggested that some of the siltation was the result of Christmas Tree Farms. Mr. Kamman suggested that Ben Copans should be contacted in cases like that in the future.

Discussion followed on the CRJC Strategic Plan and focus on growth management and the various opportunities that might be available to convene discussions between the two states.

VT Funding Status – Comm. Company said that the funding picture on the Vermont side continued to look dim and there was little likelihood of changes before the next annual budget cycle. The discussion continued with how to engage Vermont agencies in conversations. Comm. Caduto suggested involvement with federal agencies like the EPA where grant funding may be available. Other grant funding may be available through State Charitable Foundations or High Meadows Fund. Comm. Chute discussed the current financial status.

Climate Migration Forum

Comm. Lembke suggested that the CRJC should begin its initiative on the climate migration project. He urged Commissioners to attend the Antioch webinar on Climate Migration and to evaluate their approach on the subject.

Timing of the forum was discussed and he encouraged resuming the discussion at the next Executive Committee meeting and noted that it may be better to wait until another date rather than hold to the potential date. Spring may be better timing. Partnering with other regional organizations would be beneficial.

Review September Financials –

Comm. Griffin moved to adopt the financials, Comm. Company seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.

December Joint Commissions Meeting Date/Agenda

The December 21 date for the meeting of the Joint Commissions was proposed to be moved to the fourth Monday in January 25, 2021. An Executive Committee meeting was set to Monday, December 14, 2020 at 1:00 PM. Comm. Company will report back to the Executive Committee following the

Other Business – None.

3:00 – Comms. Adjourned the meeting

Adopted: December 14, 2020.