



**CRJC Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee**

**Thursday, February 7, 2022**

**7 PM**

**Windsor Welcome Center and Conference Call**

**Attendees**

Plainfield	Elise Angelillo		Windsor	Michael Metivier	Virtual
Plainfield	David Taylor	Virtual	Windsor	<i>Open</i>	
Cornish	Bill Gallagher		Weathersfield	Howard Beach	Virtual
Cornish	Colleen O'Neill		Weathersfield	<i>Open</i>	
Claremont	Matt Maki		Springfield	Bill Manner	Virtual
Claremont	<i>Open</i>		Springfield	Kelly Stettner	Virtual
Hartland	Cordelia Merritt	Virtual	Rockingham	Thomas Hernon	
Hartland	Judy Howland	Virtual	Rockingham	Margaret Perry	
Charlestown	Janice Lambert				
Charlestown	John Streeter				

Virtual: Olivia Uyizeye (staff, UVLSRPC), Marie Caduto (Basin Planner, VT ANR)

*NO QUORUM PRESENT.* *In person attendance from at least half of communities with representatives is required to meet a quorum.*

**Minutes**

*1. Welcome & Introductions*

Chair David Taylor calls the meeting to order at 7:07PM. Taylor welcomes all present. Attendees and visitors introduce themselves.

*2. Meeting Minutes from July (for approval) and December (no quorum)*

Taylor opens up meeting minutes for review. By motion of Howland/Manner, the July minutes are approved with no edits, Stettner abstains. Minutes adoption is recommended to be approved at the next CRJC Mount Ascutney meeting with a quorum.

*3. Permit Review*

Members agree to hold a special meeting on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> to review and comment on NH permits. Members Taylor, Merritt/Howland, O'Neill, Manner, and Beach confirm they can attend in person, weather permitting.

*a. Corrective Action Plan, 140 Clinton St, Springfield, VT (ID# 20093906, Comment Due 2/11/22)*

Uyizeye informs the group that she will be tracking VT permits that may be of interest to the LRS. Due to VT meeting rules that allow for a group to meet virtually, VT permits can be

discussed through a conference call with the necessary number of represented communities present.

Uyizeye highlights the following from the application for 140 Clinton St :

- **Black River** sediments contain elevated concentrations of several Site contaminants including metals, PAHs, and, in one sample, PCBs above the VT DEC SQG Threshold Effect Concentration (TEC).
  - The Probable Effects Concentration (PEC) was exceeded by copper and several PAHs in one sample collected during the 2010 Phase II ESA that was located inside the sluiceway structure. Based on the distribution and types of contaminants observed in Site soils, it is possible that some of the observed sediment, metals, and PAH contamination is related to erosion and subsequent deposition of contaminated soil from the Site via stormwater runoff.
  - Since only one sample contained copper and PAH concentrations in excess of the PEC, and concentrations do not remain elevated downstream of the Site, sediment contamination does not appear to be pervasive; as such, corrective action does not appear to be warranted.

### 3.4. Erosion Control Measures

Installation of silt fencing at the edge of the disturbed soil area will be required to prevent erosion and migration of sediment into the **Black River**, catch basins, and other sensitive areas.

Beach – This is an old foundry site and is surprised they are not more concerned about the leaching of contaminants during rainstorms. Beach has never been a big fan of capping and would rather see contaminants removed. From the permit it appears they have not decided which strategy is best.

Stettner – The site is about 3 miles from the Connecticut River.

Manner – most of the cleanup is inside the existing building. The goal is to keep this building intact and then make a connection with another building on site. At another site in Springfield, the J&L building most of that has been torn down.

Beach – Part of that building used to be an old office building.

Manner – Does not see too much of a problem with what they are doing. It sounds pretty reasonable. As far as flooding, the Black River at that location is controlled by the flood control dam. Even during Irene that area was not flooded.

Stettner – Irene impacts were further in the lowlands where the water flow was able to go horizontal.

Merritt – Indicates support of those who live close by and are more familiar with these types of projects.

Taylor – Reflects back to the group a consensus in support of the permit.

Caduto – Suggests providing positive comment on VT permits that the LRS feel really need to be done. There is no need to write letters of support for all permits where there are no concerns, as this would be a time-consuming endeavor.

#### *b. Herbicide Permit, Cornish (Comment Due 2/25/22)*

Description: Saint-Gaudens National Historic Park, 6 acre treatment area with foliar spot treatment and cut surface treatment, up to 1 ft proximity to high water mark

“Pesticides are required for use in this invasive plant treatment to continue the management actions to protect native flora and restore the forested wetland ecosystem at Saint-Gaudens National historical park. Only herbicides labeled for aquatic use will be used in order to mitigate risk to surface water and wetlands. We will also continue the use of buckthorn blasters to decrease the risk of spray drift and ensure a more discrete herbicide application to the stump, as well as decrease the amount of herbicides used during the treatment. Foliar applications will be made facing away from the waters edge.”

“The applicant has proposed the use of Rodeo (glyphosate), Roundup Custom (glyphosate), and Garlon 3a (triclopyr). These products are labelled for aquatic and terrestrial use, however the permit would be conditioned strictly for applications to upland invasive plant species. The applicant has proposed applications will be conducted via cut surface and foliar spot treatments within all 4 treatment sites.”

Beach – Has used glyphosate with temporary impacts. Sees the appeal of it as a broad-based herbicide.

Stettner - Curious about the use of goats to chew invasives down to the ground.

Beach – Goats also have to be done continuously.

Stettner – The removal of invasives has to be followed by native planting.

Metivier – Invasives are there for a reason because of disturbance. Metivier sees herbicide application as something that has to be done. If that underlying problem of landuse is not being addressed in some way, then those issues will continue. There is a risk of ripple effects from using these chemicals in the ecosystems.

Caduto – the applications does not indicated which site receives which herbicide. Triclopyr may be more of a concern in the riparian area then rodeo.

Stettner – As it is a public park, might they consider public workdays on this. Consider a citizen science approach.

Further discussion postponed to the special meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*c. Drinking Water Infrastructure Project, Charlestown (Comment Due 2/25/22)*

*d. Shoreland & Wetlands Permit, Ashley Ferry Boat Landing Replacement, Claremont (Comment Due 2/22/22)*

#### 4. Other Permit Communications

Taylor – Mentions the Hartland Pike Industries permit. The permit allows them to lower the depth of one pit so it is equal to an adjacent pit.

Stettner – Appears details and safety protocol are covered. More concerned about the work being done in Lebanon. Any thoughts about the issues in Hartland?

Beach – Seems to be a minor request.

#### 5. Basin 10 Tactical Basin Plan Priorities Review with Marie Caduto

Taylor welcomes Caduto to the meeting.

Caduto describes herself as the watershed coordinator for southeast VT from Killington down to Vernon. She works on tactical basin plans that improve the watershed water quality and

habitat. The plans results in a long list of projects that can be done. For Basin 10 – Black and Ottauquechee Rivers, there are approximately 600 projects.

Caduto is looking for guidance on what the communities think are the most important projects to be done. What are your priorities? This is what CRJC is contracted to do for the state of Vermont, provide guidance on the basin plan. Caduto references a guidance document on how to access the project list. Caduto describes two different systems. One is map based (Clean water portal) and the other is database (Clean Water Project Explorer). These platforms identify different types of projects for agriculture, developed land, etc. Caduto asks members to look at projects that have not happened yet. Can choose by town, basin, project status. Caduto shows examples of projects and how to navigate the platforms.

The project report gives a summary of what that project will do. The screening Report tells you every person in VTANR that may need to give you comments on that particular project.

Uyizeye – Is this a kind of green infrastructure plan?

Caduto – Yes, it is.

Uyizeye – Are there notes on protection in relation to land use policies?

Caduto – Water resource protection would bring up areas for waters to be reclassified that would change protections. Each round of update does reclassifications so to maintain the water quality, which can impact what new developments can advance in certain areas. The TBP makes recommendations on those that already meet water quality criteria.

Stettner – is there a timeline for comments?

Caduto – No. Grant rounds occur throughout the year, so no specific deadline for this review.

## *6. Updates & Other Business*

### *a. Staff Updates*

Uyizeye asks members to complete the survey to decide on topics for the riverwide speaker series. Also, to please circulate the upcoming e-newsletter and link to subscribe through networks.

### *a. Commissioners Update*

Caduto informs members that the CRJC website is back up. Caduto also shares enthusiasm for a Climate migration workshop being developed by commissioners to bring planners together to discuss hot to address the issues.

## *7. Adjourn*

The meeting adjourns at 8:14PM, by motion of Howland/Manner.

*Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.*