

**Wantastiquet Subcommittee  
of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions**

Tuesday, July 26, 2021

6:00PM

Walpole Public Library, 48 Main St, Walpole, NH

Virtual option via ZOOM

**Attendees**

Walpole	Samantha Loch	✓	Westminster	Paul Harlow	
Walpole			Westminster	Jim Calchera	
Westmoreland	Perry Sawyer	✓	Putney		
Westmoreland			Putney		
Chesterfield	Roland Volbehrr		Dummerston	Daniel Marx	
Chesterfield			Dummerston		
Hinsdale	Mike Darcy	✓ remote	Brattleboro	Kathy Urffer	✓
Hinsdale			Brattleboro	Michael Fairchild	✓
Vernon	Andy White	✓			
Vernon					

Meghan Butts (UVLSRPC Staff) - remote

Nick Giannetti (DEC in Vermont - Guest) - remote

**Minutes**

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Sawyer called the meeting to order at 6:15PM.

2. Meeting minutes from May

Urffer moved to accept the minutes. Fairchild seconded. Roll call vote was unanimous.

Minutes were approved.

3. Permit Reviews

- a. Discharge Permit, VTrans, Brattleboro (App#: 3-1571, Comment Due 7/29) Presentation by Nick Giannetti, Pretreatment Coordinator, VTANR)

- Giannetti gave a brief description of the permit documents and noted that comments are due by July 30 and can be submitted online via ENB: <https://enb.vermont.gov/>
- The Committee asked the following questions with responses from Giannetti:
  - o Urffer asked about the treatment process and can the permit be approved without a treatment plan? Giannetti responded that the treatment plan has not been designed yet but as part of the permit in special condition 3b, the facility is required to submit a proposed design prior to discharge. The facility presented the proper thresholds for permit approval.
- Giannetti reported that the State of Vermont is not aware of any discharge coming from the facility at this time. Discharge is not allowed without a permit and treatment plan.
- Giannetti continued to report on the bridge project as a whole and discussed the soil and groundwater management plan. The discussion is summarized below.

- White asked about the metals found in the soil that are of concern. Giannetti reported that the primary metal found was lead and due to the discovery of metals, an additional permit was required.
- The Committee asked where the funding for treatment comes from? Giannetti reported that the answer is currently unknown. Barrows and Fischer own the land but the State of Vermont has an easement on the land in question.
- Giannetti concluded that the cleanup being done at this site with any ground or surface water being sent to the wastewater treatment plant will be cleaner than it is now.

b. Shoreland Permit, National Utility, Hinsdale, NH (App#: 2021-02125)

*Summary: Impact 6 sq ft of protected shoreland in order to drill 6 geotechnical borings.*

- Committee discussed the permit documents and reviewed the map to clarify locations of boring. No action was taken on this permit.

4. Other Permit Communications

a. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, Soundview Holdings, Putney (App#: 3-1128, Comment Due 7/14)

Urffer gave a brief update on public comments. Urffer explained that Putney Paper Mill facility was in compliance when discharging from the facility but when the discharge reached the Connecticut River, there were qualitative measures not allowed by Vermont standards. The discharge was described as meeting quantitative permit requirements but not qualitative (smell, color, foaming). This indicated a problem within the pipe. The Committee discussed the challenges of this situation and thanked Urffer for the update.

*Mike Darcy left meeting*

5. Updates & Other Business

a. Consider regular meeting schedule

- Committee discussed going to 4 meetings per year but were concerned about comment periods
- Sawyer made a motion for the Committee to meet 4 to 5 times per year. White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. LRS Water Quality & Outreach Updates

Urffer provided an update that testing has started in a few locations using volunteers. Testing has begun.

No outreach has been done yet but Committee recognizes the need for outreach to get new members. The Committee discussed the gaps and current members. They discussed a possible op-ed to run in the papers.

c. Commissioners Update

- Loch brought a Cold River Permit in Langdon regarding gravel excavation. The comment period has passed but she shared the permit application.
- Fairchild announced an event on August 1<sup>st</sup> 10:30 AM Hinsdale Marina New England Canoe Racing.

6. Adjourn

Urffer made a motion to adjourn. Loch seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Meghan Butts*