

**Minutes**  
**Connecticut River Joint Commissions**  
*Hybrid Meeting – Executive Committee*  
*Location: Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC*  
*10 Water Street, Suite 225, Lebanon, NH*  
*Monday, December 13, 2021 ~ 2:00 – 3:30 PM*

**Present**

Commissioners In-Person – Steve Lembke, Jennifer Griffin, Ken Hastings.

Attending via Remote – Chris Campany, Ted Cooley, Jennifer Griffin, Rob Christie, Sharon Francis, Jason Rasmussen, Marie Caduto, Staff Pat Crocker and Olivia Uyizeye,

**Minutes**

Staff Pat Crocker will be retiring after about ten years of providing staff support to CRJC. The first part of the meeting is spent acknowledging her contribution to the organization.

**Minutes** – Commissioner Lembke moved to adopt the October 18 minutes as presented, Commissioner Griffin seconded. Vote: Unanimous

**Financial Report** – Commissioner Cooley moved and Commissioner Rasmussen seconded the motion to accept the financial report. Vote Unanimous

**CRJC Phone** – Discussion followed about the lack of calls for over nine months. Commissioners agreed to leave in place for now and research options and follow up with discussion in January

**Website Update** – The Bluehost Subscription has been renewed for 3 months into February. Staff has a request in for tech support and will report back before Thursday.

**LRS Up Date** – The river wide speaker series has had 250 viewings on YouTube. The past year’s outreach was well received by communities but did not result in new representation. Updates of the River Recreation Plans were discussed. Some of the contents reflect changes over time. Jason encourages plan updates, but stated the LRS could begin those updates and then have staff review them .

**Vermont Permit Notices** – Discussion followed. The CRJC LRS do not have an official role on VT permit approvals but LRS are encouraged to comment on any item that requests public comment. ACT 250 covers development approvals regionally, but Chris Campany suggested.

**Local River Subcommittee Member Nomination** - Carl Reyns was nominated for Wantastiquet LRS. Commissioner Hastings moved approval of the appointment, Commissioner Cooley seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

**Update on Migration Project.** Commissioner Lembke reported Elena Mihaly of the CLF will not be able to take an active role in helping us with our CRJC Migration Project webinar. She did however, direct me

to the survey done by a collaboration of the Center for Research in Vermont, the VT Futures Project and UVM's Office of Engagement.

The link to the survey is shown below. If you have any time before today's meeting, read the Executive Summary. It would seem likely that one or more of the three collaborators might be willing to work with us in some capacity.

Sarah Bockus, CSI and internship director at Antioch, is excited about the CRJC continuing to pursue the Migration topic, but her CSI slots are taken for the spring. She forwarded my request for collaboration on to Christa Daniels the Climate Center Director to see if she has any partnership ideas. I am waiting for her response.

The most important decision to make today is what aspect of the Climate Migration do we want to pursue. Once we decide on that, we can put together a focused plan

Here's a link to the survey: [https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Center-for-Research-on-Vermont/docs/Final\\_Report\\_9-28\\_Telework.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Center-for-Research-on-Vermont/docs/Final_Report_9-28_Telework.pdf)

The Antioch program staff were also consulted on continuing involvement of students. Commissioner Caduto would like to have additional time to review the new information before deciding on how to proceed. Rasmussen stated the survey was excellent and he would reach out to Professor Richard Watts at UVM on the state of the survey and any new information, as well as the possibility of inviting him to speak at the webinar. Commissioner Company noted that the housing infrastructure does not appear to be in place to accommodate the growth and to maintain the ability to provide workforce housing. He feels concern about the challenges ahead. We are past being in a housing crisis.

The NH Housing information that staff provided was very good. Commissioner Caduto looks at this as a planning conference that will engage towns and local planners that will alert the municipalities on what is coming in the future. Brattleboro, VT has conducted a housing study that connects the present and future housing needs. Who will need housing and how will those needs be fulfilled. Commissioner Company provided a link to an article he authored: <http://www.windhamregional.org/news/from-the-director-2021-fall>

Discussion of engagement of the NGO's and private sector developers in how to move forward. Commissioner Rasmussen expressed concern that the infrastructure funds may not be available to support investment in housing that will be needed. Commissioner Hastings inquired about the NH report and possible speakers. Pat suggested that they contact Ben Frost at NH Housing for a speaker.

Commissioner Lembke inquired if Commissioners think the CRJC should do a webinar in the spring on some aspect of the climate migration and housing challenge ahead. Discussion followed on how to proceed. Commissioner Company suggested citing the perils of not mitigating the risks of unplanned growth and the use of ARPA funds to address this infrastructure need and whether there will be funds in the social infrastructure bill that may eventually pass. The consensus was to continue to plan this

event/webinar. Commissioner Lembke will continue the planning for the climate migration webinar and requested suggestions from the those present.

Mitigation and Enhancement Fun - Rick Walling was approved by the Executive Board to continue to serve as the CRJC representative of the Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund managed by the NH Charitable Foundation.

**Annual Report** - completed and Olivia will distribute using her municipal mailing list.

**Strategic plan implementation and Officer Nominating Committee** - should be put in process so that CJRC can plan ahead for June 30, 2022.

**Press Release VT Funding** – Jason Rasmussen suggested one edit that he will circulate. Staff plans to send out the press release in January right after the New Year.

**Vermont Deliverables** – list will be circulated among the Executive Committee.

**Adjourn** - Commissioner Lembke moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen at 3:15 PM.