

Upper Valley Subcommittee
of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions
Monday, January 24, 2022 - 6:00 PM
Join In Person or Join Virtually via Zoom

Latham Library, Downstairs, 16 Library Rd, Thetford, VT

NH Members:	Present	Absent	VT Members:	Present	Absent
Alice Creagh, Hanover		X	Vacancy, Bradford		
Vacancy, Hanover			Vacancy, Bradford		
Eric Agterberg, Lebanon	virtual		Ben Dana, Fairlee	✓	
Ruth Bleyler, Lebanon		X	Vacancy, Fairlee		
Bruce Garland, Lebanon (alt)		X	David Barrell, Hartford	✓	X
Bill Malcolm, Lyme	✓		Lynn Bohi, Hartford	virtual	
Vacancy, Lyme			Bill Bridge, Thetford		X
Ted Cooley, Orford	virtual		Linda Matteson, Thetford	✓	
Carl Schmidt, Orford	✓		Chet Clem, Norwich	virtual	
Karyn Brown, Piermont		X	Vacancy, Norwich		
Helga Mueller, Piermont		X			

Additional Attendees: Brendan Quigley, Virtual (Lebanon Sand & Gravel); Scott Williams, Virtual (Lebanon Sand & Gravel); Olivia Uyizeye, Staff from UVLSRPC (In Person)

Minutes

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Bill Malcolm started the meeting. Chair Malcolm conducted a roll call of LAC members, invited guests to introduce themselves, and welcomed all present.

2. Meeting Minutes Review

By motion of Barrell/Schmidt, the September and November meeting minutes passed unanimously with the following edits. Bohi noted two typos in the November minutes: 1) page two, remove “Members are”; 2) page 2 under picture add a “d” to use

3. Permit Review

a. Lebanon Sand and Gravel – Mr. Quigley

Malcolm asks Quigley to summarize conversations with the Lebanon conservation commission about wetlands impacts.

Quigley notes questions about the needed mitigation due to vernal pool impacts. There are few alternative other than in lieu fee. Preservation for vernal pools would require redundancy; in which case it is difficult to find a site. Other requirements for preservation sites that make the option less economically viable for the company.

Malcolm – is the conservation commission willing to accept fee in lieu?

Quigley – recently received those comments from NHDES and they have not been thoroughly reviewed. These impacts will not take place without mitigation.

Williams – Pike industries at other sites for mitigation potential. A couple sites may be viable alternatives for the wetlands portion, but the vernal pool portion meant that Pike would have to pay

over 50% over the overall fee. With all these factors, this option did not come out as viable. In lieu fee goes into the ARM fund, a policy dictated by the state. The Lebanon conservation commission voted to support this strategy, but did have a number of comments. Assuming no other viable sites come up, this will likely be the set course.

Bohi – if Pike industries does not get approval for the fee, what are the other options? Does there have to be access to the land that the wetlands and vernal pools are on?

Quigley – would have to come up with another option. Yes, that portion of the site has to be included for the proposed work. It is not a project that can be reconfigured or changed by moving things around. The wetlands of concern is right in the middle of their reserve, or rock. They know the rock is there, mining it currently. Very near future they will have to move into these areas. This will not happen at once. Some quickly, some in 50years, somewhat dependent on the market. Able to apply for this permit that is essentially ongoing as long as Pike provides updates on a 3-year timeline. Understanding that in order to continue this endeavor, there needs to be assurance that access to the material into the future will be there. If they do not receive the permit then the company will be hampered severely.

4. Other Permit Communications

a. Route 5 drainage ditch into River on Vermont side of the Orford and Fairlee bridge over the Connecticut River

Malcolm notes this is a VTrans project. Document shared from permit repository online. Schmidt notes difficulties accessing the document. Uyizeye will follow up with the information again.

Uyizeye shares update on tracking of Vermont permits. Uyizeye will be monitoring Vermont permits notification systems for permits of potential concern to the local river subcommittees. This will include monitoring of both ACT 250 permits and VT ANR permits. The latter are posted through the Environmental Notice Bulletin. Uyizeye will share further tracking details with members in the coming months for comment or their own interest.

Bohi notes that past CRJC staff, Adair Mulligan, used to do this.

b. Hartford WRJ permit

Bohi – The site of concern is just under a mile and half from the Connecticut River. Up route 15. The bridge connects route 4 and route 14 through the VA cutoff, built in 1927. There was some work done recently, but this was described as a band aid. Access was closed for a while because it has been in such bad shape. New project is to leave the VA cutoff and then connect with Christian Street.

Barrell – used to be called the slant bridge. No room on the side of either lane to take pictures.

Expanding 5.5 feet so there is a sidewalk. Superstructure of bridge in poor condition. Angled towards Christian St, make it a lot less dangerous. Site is horrendous. Old slabs and big excavator. Concern how it the work may impact downstream. Not sure how to evaluate the project.

Bohi – whatever falls off the bridge and whatever from the abutments could have an impact.

Malcolm – asks to share permit details to determine next steps at subsequent meeting. Uyizeye will share.

5. Vice Chair Election

Malcolm asks if any members are willing and able to act as Vice-chair? No one steps forward. Malcolm notes that he is ever not at the meeting, someone will need to step forward.

6. Updates & Other Business

Uyizeye helped to submit site nominations to the Vermont La Rosa program that helps to pay for lab testing on water samples.

Barrell asks where data is housed, as he had previously collected samples downstream of Mascoma.

Uyizeye will follow up on where Vermont sampling records are kept.

Schmidt reached out to Piermont member Helga Mueller who indicated interest to continue as a member, however, it is unclear if she is planning to join. Karyn Brown was not reached.

7. Adjourn

By motion of Schmidt/Matteson the meeting is adjourned, approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Olivia.