



CRJC's mission is to preserve the visual and ecological integrity and sustainable working landscape of the Connecticut River Valley, and guide its growth and development through grassroots leadership.

## Connecticut River Joint Commissions

Full Commissions Meeting  
 Monday, March 21, 2022 - 2 PM  
 Hybrid Meeting – 10 Water Street, Suite 225, Lebanon, NH

### ATTENDANCE

NH CRVRC COMMISSIONERS			VT CRWAC COMMISSIONERS		
NCC	OPEN		Sec. Nat. Resources	Marie Caduto	V
UVLSRPC	Ted Cooley	V	NVDA	Beth Torpey	V
SWRPC	Lisa Murphy Harriet Davenport (alt)	X V	TRORC	Pete Fellows	V
CRC	Ken Hastings	V	MARC	Jason Rasmussen	V
CRFCC	OPEN		WRC	Chris Company	V
Hydro-Electric	Jen Griffin	V	RPC#5	OPEN	
Conservation	OPEN		At Large	Steve Lembke	V
Tourism	OPEN		At Large	Beth Kennett	V
Agricultural	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	
Forest Prod	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	
At Large	Jim McClammer	V	At Large	OPEN	
At Large	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	
At Large	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	
At Large	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	
At Large	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	

Note: P = present in person; V = present over remote virtual platform; X = not present

Additional attendance: Olivia Uyizeye, Staff Consultant

*No quorum. Due to the lack of sufficient in person attendance.*

### MINUTES

**2:00 PM Convene**

President Lembke convenes the meeting at 2PM.

#### 1. Adopt/Review Minutes of January

Lembke opens the meeting minutes for discussion, noting several edits needed. No other comments are raised. Formal adoption of the minutes will be postponed to the next meeting.

#### 2. Financial Report

Lembke reports that the February financial report looks good. The work continues to run under budget. Rasmussen adds that the financial report looked good and that some spending increases are expected in the spring due to staff time spent for water quality monitoring and support of the revitalization plan.



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### **3. Revitalization and Assessment Plan**

Griffin and Lembke report on the 10-month revitalization and assessment plan, including survey results. See the attached documents as presented before the meeting, and the final version including changes and comments made during this meeting.

### **4. NH Meeting Law**

Uyizeye shares a conversation with NHDES Nisa Marks regarding proposed changes in the NH legislature on the NH meeting law, NH RSA 91-a. This law requires that to meet a quorum a minimum threshold of in person attendance by members be met. For CRJC a threshold of in person attendance by NH members must be met, while for the LRSs the threshold applies to both NH and VT members. This requirement has caused multiple meetings recently to be cancelled, due to members being unable to attend due to travel plans, weather conditions, or otherwise. Despite best efforts to convene, some comments on NH permits had to be passed by. Marks shared that the 3 proposed changes in the NH legislature have either been put on the table or into review for the next session. Although this often means the bills will not move forward, it is possible for them to be picked back up and reconsidered during this session. Votes have run along party lines. Marks encouraged CRJC Vermont president, commissioners, and legislators, to contact the NH governor, republican leadership in the house and senate, and river front legislators, and emphasize the challenges and important for having some change on the NH meeting law for this bi-state organization to function effectively.

Lembke adds that a comment letter has been drafted to express the CRJC position on the NH meeting law and need for modification. Lembke asks for any comments. None are made. Lembke will move the lobbying effort forward on behalf of the organization.

Griffin describes a short statement or disclaimer that might allow subcommittees to submit comment letters without a quorum as required by NH RSA 91-a. The disclaimer is an effort to provide some ability for LRS to submit comments despite their best efforts to meet quorum requirement. Cooley suggests discussing this strategy with legal services with the NH Municipal Association. No other comments are raised. Uyizeye agrees to follow up on the suggestion made by Cooley.

### **5. CRJC Materials Storage**

Lembke informs the group that UVLSRPC is downsizing its office space and informed CRJC it is no longer able to store CRJC materials. Uyizeye confirmed with Lionel Chute that he is willing and able to store these materials until CRJC can ascertain a long-term plan for the items. Uyizeye will only need to bring the items to Chute in Claremont or his home in Unity. Lembke thanks all involved for a quick and low-cost solution.

### **6. LRS Report**

Uyizeye summarizes the January to February 2022 LRS report and highlights the following

- Hybrid meetings where a quorum is required in person continue to be a challenge.
- Uyizeye informs commissioners, that after consultation with legal services with the NH Municipal association about the CRJC bylaws on the topic of member resignations, a method was determined to help facilitate the ability for LRS to meet a quorum due to long inactive members. It has been determined that if a member does not attend at least 3 meetings in a row and fails to respond to communications by CRJC members or staff, then that person may be resigned in consultation by the subcommittee chair and CRJC president. This action does not



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impact any of these individuals' ability to again join the LRS at a future time. In this vein, several members are listed in the most recent LRS report to have been resigned due to inactive status.

- Uyizeye summarizes the water quality monitoring work planned for the 2022 season <https://www.crjc.org/water-quality-monitoring/>. Ten sites have been accepted into the Vermont La Rosa program for lab analyses of total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and chlorides. Uyizeye asks if commissioners would like to participate, or know of someone who would enjoy this work, to be in touch.

## **7. Other Business**

Lembke invites additional updates. None are made.

**4:00 PM      Adjourn**

The meeting is adjourned

*Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.*