



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

Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, August 22, 2022 - 2 PM

ATTENDANCE

Officer	NH CRVRC		VT CRWAC	
Chair	Jennifer Griffin	V	Chris Campany	V
Vice-Chair	Ken Hastings	V	Marie Caduto	X
Secretary / Treasurer	Ted Cooley	V	Jason Rasmussen	V
Most recent past CRJC President			Steve Lembke	V

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

Additional Virtual attendance: Olivia Uyizeye, Staff Consultant.

NO QUORUM.

MINUTES

2:00 PM Convene

President Griffin convenes the meeting at 2PM. Griffin indicates that her time this year as CRJC president will be focused on the revitalization and assessment plan.

1. Minutes review

The minutes from June are reviewed.

By motion of Lembke/Campany, the February minutes are tentatively approved as written.

2. Financials

July financials. Rasmussen describes that the organization is within budget for the time of. Only question he raised was about technology costs, which were explained to cover improvement for hybrid meetings.

3. Revitalization & Assessment Plan overview/next steps

Griffin provides an update on the different tasks of the plan. The following updates are provided on each goal.

- #1 multi-year funding – Griffin explains an update from Tracie Sales on budget from the New Hampshire legislature for CRJC. Sales has asked that CRJC budget be restored to FY2021 funding plus the acceptable three percent increase. Sales has asked for a letter of support to go with this funding request. Lembke asks if any additional supporting documentation has been requested. Griffin explains that only a letter was requested. Commissioners agree that Griffin can submit this letter without formal review and approval. No concerns or additions are made.



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- #2 contractual deliverables – Griffin will update the established spreadsheet of contractual deliverables.
- #5 bi-state discussion – Expect a second bi-state discussion for water quality.
- #6 CRJC-LRS relationship – Hastings will engage with LRS members in September on this topic when all are back from any summer vacation.
- #7 communications – Broken links from discussion with Adair Mulligan. Cross-links with similar topical organizations. Griffin notes that CRJC is listed as a partner by the Friends of Conte. CRJC might reciprocate and acknowledge this partnership. Company explains that he shared an email with the Friends of Conte indicating CRJC support of their most recent initiative. Rasmussen asks about the byways site – need to ask the states if any interest to take over its management.
- #8 recruitment – An important task for the functioning of the organization that CRJC agreed to put funding for staff time towards. Griffin met with Lembke and Uyizeye to discuss a strategy for recruitment. Lembke describes the following:
 - Important to know base commissioner status for next year or two.
 - Compile a list of potential commissioner/advisor based on different stakeholders.
 - Timing is a challenge because not all CR valley topics we will be able to address at once.
 - Information on appointment process should including letter of interest. Need a redone Commissioner's manual, mentor connection, and potential legislature approval for reduced number of Commissioners.
 - Proposes the following next steps
 - 3-6 areas of interest that realistically recognize the best bi-state meeting opportunities. Match these areas with possible experts (already started). CRJC staff to call to ask for advice on possible topics. If knowledgeable and interested, Commissioner would follow up and thank them and ask if any interest to be a commissioner. If hesitation, consideration can be made by Commissioner to act as an advisor.
 - Beth Kennett, as a current commissioner with agricultural connections, as a good trial for this proposal.
 - Recruitment needs to be program driven as much as for the sake of recruitment itself.
 - Company – advisors would not warrant a legislative change?
 - Lembke – advisors can be a presidential subcommittee. More an ad-hoc committee.
 - Cooley – any reason why advisors could not be brought in on discretion? To consult these experts?
 - Griffin – we can ask anybody's opinion for what we want to do with these bi-state meetings. Generally, people are overloaded with board positions, but may be more open to engagement to provide expert guidance and participating consultation.



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- Hastings – perhaps the advisor title is unnecessary except to the person themselves.
 - Campany – state employees always happy to advise as part of their function, but rare to engage as a commissioner or any formal position. Marie's position is less common and specific to that appointment. It will be interesting to see what happens with dairy in the Connecticut River. Default if changes from dairy to hay/silage, but more often a candidate for subdivision. Implications for the economy, landscape, water quality, habitat of the Valley.
 - Lembke – suggests then that Campany approach Kennett with this topic for advice on whether the idea resonate and who should be involved. The state would not need to be an advisor, but rather the direct stakeholder.
 - Campany – will move forward to test out this topic on agriculture. All agree with this direction.
- #9 climate migration – Campany explains this is a topic related to the relative scarcity of housing here, lack of infrastructure. It does not take many people to move here from away to have a major impact on the housing market, as we've seen from the COVID-19 pandemic. Prices are going to go up as scarcity persists. For those coming in, the homes are more affordable, but not to those who live here now. Potential then for people to have to leave, loss of ability to age in place. Shine a light on that harsh reality. Further wealth disparities, challenges in the labor market. So what? Need to invest in the infrastructure for affordable housing to be possible. Pathway to least resistance could further subdivide the landscape. 9acre loophole in VT permitting. Build off the research of Keys to the Valley, planning effort to try and address the problem. Do smart growth planning and stop rural sprawl. Rasmussen concurs.
 - Lembke asks about presenting the pros and cons.
 - Campany, just going to happen, policy failures for the last few decades. You cannot stop people from moving. Not a lot of people moving just because of climate, but it is a consideration among others like recreation, remote work. People do not see themselves as climate refugees/migrants. May look at it as migration climate or otherwise impacted. What does it means for people who live here now, into the future? Have a tight message and presentation – RPCs from both state, planning boards.
 - Griffin asks for a short summary.
 - #10 watershed speaker – John Ragonese on FERC relicensing at September 19 Joint commissions meeting
 - #11 strategic plan – Lembke indicates that we are in alignment with the activities being discussed today.

4. FY2022 CRJC annual report review

Griffin asks commissioners to make comments



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- Below pic, be clear about the timing this report covers.
- Edit for “the” in first paragraph
- Clarify commissioners being for which fiscal year, “comprised”

5. Grant priorities

Griffin postpones this agenda item to the full commissions meeting.

6. Full commissions agenda

Standard agenda with update on the revitalization and assessment plan.

7. Social events

Griffin thanks Uyizeye for putting together the social events.

8. Updates & other business

a. Hydro-relicensing

Update on LRS review of fish passage settlement agreement with comment letters likely from Wantastiquet and Upper Valley. Griffin reminds Uyizeye to invite LRS member to the Wilder dam tour and Discussion with John Ragonese, which might address some questions raised. Uyizeye asks if the talk will be acceptable recorded. Griffin agrees to ask.

4:00 PM Adjourn

The meeting is adjourned.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.