



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, November 14, 2022 - 2 PM

Join Virtually via Zoom

ATTENDANCE

The attendance noted below is organized according to officer positions for each participating state Commission that together make up the Joint Commissions. The Joint Commissions officers are President (Jennifer Griffin), Vice President (Chris Campany), Secretary (Ted Cooley), and Treasurer (Jason Rasmussen).

Officer	NH CRVRC		VT CRWAC	
Chair	Jennifer Griffin	V	Chris Campany	X
Vice-Chair	Ken Hastings	V	Marie Caduto	V
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.

NOTES

2:00 PM Convene

President Griffin convenes the meeting at 2PM.

1. Minutes Review (October Notes for information, February for Approval)

Due to lack of a quorum, February minutes approval is postponed. On the October notes, a few comments are made and will be incorporated.

2. October Financials

Rasmussen reviews the October financials and will follow up on items, with Uyizeye, that require additional information.

- Overall spending is a bit higher than budgeted, although it is not a serious concern.
- The budget for climate migration funds will need to be adjusted. The Claremont Savings Bank funds amount to \$2,000, thus the CRJC budget will need to be adjusted at the January Full Commissions meeting to reflect this. The options are to take these funds either from the reserves or contingency.
- The Vermont contract is not yet ready and will be discussed after this meeting.
- A question comes up about how much money CRJC has in reserves, Rasmussen agrees to follow up with Anne MacEwan to clarify the status.



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- It is confirmed that the \$1,266 listed under the meeting expense line should be under events.
- A question comes up on whether the \$1,300 cost for insurance will bring us over budget on that expense line.

3. CRWAC President

Lembke reports that after a conversation with Chris Campany, Campany has indicated that he will resign as Commissioner and CRWAC President. Lembke is uncertain when exactly Campany will formally resign and expect Margo Ghia will join CRJC as a Commissioner. Lembke expects to work with Ghia on Commissioner onboarding materials. Griffin reviews CRJC officers' potential for FY2024 with Cooley as President and Caduto as Vice President.

4. Revitalization and Assessment Plan

a. Budget

Griffin reports that the funding request to increase NH contribution is still pending. A commissioner letter of support was submitted in August. Caduto asks for the NH contribution for the next fiscal year once known.

b. Deliverables

Griffin reports that CRJC is on track with its deliverables. We are working on having insurance certificates in hand. It is unclear if CRJC needs a Vermont tax account, noted as needed in the VT contract, pending feedback from Anne MacEwan.

c. Administrative services

Griffin confirms that there is no change to the UVLSRPC contract.

d. EC board leadership

Lembke references an item that CRJC is not doing, specifically a yearly summary to the NH legislators. Griffin reports on conversations with NHDES Tracie Sales. Sales noted that it is OK not to perform items if only listed out in the original CRVRC charter.

e. Bi-state events

Caduto provides an update on the next bi-state water quality meeting in November, which focused on a gauging station just over the MA line. MADEP is no longer funding its operation, thus the bi-state group is looking to fill this need from NH/VT. The meeting heard presentations from USGS and EPA on monitoring work that they are doing. USGS is expanding their monitoring into the northern part of the watershed. NHDES & VTDEC staff agreed feed USGS the sites being monitored on the Connecticut River. This information will allow USGS Jon Morrison to identify gaps top run desired nutrient modeling. This information will allow USGS to identify gaps, and thus for the states to identify priority data collection needs for the 2023 season and related funding requests appropriate to submit to USEPA. It is expected that CRJC will pull together another bi-state meeting in December.



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Griffin authorizes sending the letter of support on gauge funding to the state legislatures.

Commissioners discuss topics for other bi-state meetings.

- Climate migration
 - o There is a full description on what will be focused on which currently comes down a lot to the housing issue. The heading and subheading would add to that discussion and bring CRJC into that discussion.
 - o Rasmussen – one of the key questions remaining is when and how this event will happen. Griffin suggests January/February 2023.
 - o Griffin mentions the wheel and spokes idea where it is discussed what climate migration is and how it effects xyz...
 - o Griffin suggests setting up a meeting to clarify event direction and timing.
- Agriculture
 - o Lembke spoke with Kennett. Kennett is interested to support a meeting sometime between now and July 2023. Kennett suggested that we speak with Ryan Patch (Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets)
- Legislators not discussed.

f. LRS relationship

Hastings set up a rough survey and request letter. Hastings reviewed the strategy with Lembke and Uyizeye provided feedback. Hastings asks Commissioners to review draft letter and questions before distributed to the LRS.

g. Communications

Griffin brings up next steps for the byways website and suggest to table for another meeting or have Communications group meet to review. Cooley agrees to bring the topic to the Communications subgroup.

h. Recruitment

Lembke is reviewing a lot of CRJC materials. One item Lembke noticed is the need to clarify the organization structure with CRVRC/CRWAC which then forms CRJC. The CRJC bylaws to allow for a Board of advisors for 1-year terms.

i. Watershed Speaker

Griffin contacted Rich Holschuh as an indigenous speaker at the next full commissions meeting in January. Griffin has asked Uyizeye to follow up.

5. Full Commissions agenda and speaker

The following items are mentioned. The potential to extend the meeting to 3 hours is put on the table.

- Speaker (45min – 1hr) ask what the speaker would prefer
- Minutes



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- State contracts and budgets
- CRJC financial progress report
- Revitalization and assessment plan debrief
- Byways website
- LRS update
- Social event and Riverwide debrief
- Hydro update
- LISS Futures Grant – Agriculture received
- Recruitment (postpone to March)

Caduto mentions an opinion circulating that CRJC should fold. Caduto expresses concern for making the argument to fund the organization to the State, which this opinion aired openly and asks that Commissioners be cautious of who you say those words to. Lembke notes that this could simple be from the minutes.

Lembke expresses that he feels CRJC can move on from the conversation on whether or not to fold the organization with specific mention of the bistate discussion strategy proving to be a productive one. Griffin responds with the sentiment that it is OK to publicly portray that CRJC has worked through the question to fold and decided to move forward. Uyizeye suggests reference in LRS cover letter.

6. Updates and Other Business

Hastings indicates concern about the sale of GRH to Quebec Hydro – opening a door to get into the bi-state region. Griffin responds to say that GRH has been told from HydroQuebec, that the body will remain the same with a different owner. The FERC process can't change with a new owner. It is expected that the FERC license will have no change from the current proposal and will last 40 years, according to current standard for dams without new construction. The relicensing process is held up by FirstLight that is still working on a comprehensive settlement agreement.

4:00 PM Adjourn

The meeting is adjourned.

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.