



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, October 17, 2022 - 2 PM

Join In Person – Tutorial Room, Kilton Library, Lebanon, NH

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	P	Chris Campany	X
Vice-Chair	Ken Hastings	V	Marie Caduto	P
Secretary / Treasurer	Ted Cooley	V	Jason Rasmussen	X
Most recent past CRJC President			Steve Lembke	P

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 (August Notes for information, February for Approval)

Due to lack of a quorum, August minutes approval is postponed. Commissioners agree that meetings without a quorum should be named “Notes” rather than “Minutes” to avoid confusion. Notes do not require review with a quorum, and will be reviewed for accuracy at the subsequent meeting. Minutes will require review at the next meeting with a quorum.

2. August Financials

Uyizeye provide a verbal update. Although we had discussed being slightly over budget, Uyizeye sees that we are close to budget after a more careful review, with an estimated 30% of the budget covered by tasks/expenses completed in the first quarter, including the full socials budget.

Griffin asks Uyizeye to provide a financials progress report by task at the Full commissions meeting in January



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3. Revitalization and Assessment Plan

a. Budget

Caduto explains that the Vermont contract is still in progress. The state asked if the start date could be moved to January, but Caduto rejected this and confirmed that November 1 was agreeable. Caduto is unclear how much longer the contract will take. Hopefully the contract start date adjustment will alleviate contract renewal issues in future years. Caduto confirms that a slight increase in funding is still expected.

Griffin reports that the funding request to increase NH contribution is still pending.

b. Deliverables

Griffin reports that CRJC is on track with its deliverables.

c. Administrative services

Griffin confirms that there is no change on the UVLSRPC contract for the fiscal year.

d. EC board leadership

Lembke will discuss as part of the recruitment update.

e. Bi-state events

Caduto updates that the next bi-state water quality meeting is expected to be in November, focused on how to increase NH and VT monitoring including what is needed to do so.

Commissioners discuss other topics for bi-state meeting. The following are mentioned.

- Agriculture
- Climate migration
- Legislators

f. LRS relationship

Hastings reports that he will be speaking to Lembke about his approach to reach out to LRS chairs. Hastings will speak with the LRS chairs who can then survey their members and then Hastings can report back to Commissioners in late-Winter.

Uyizeye offers to put together an online survey to help expedite conversation. The results can then be shared for a conversation at one meeting for each LRS before Hastings final report.

g. Communications

Griffin asks about the status of the websites. Uyizeye says the main CRJC website is good except for the resources pages that need to be reviewed. Uyizeye expects this will be done within the current contract this Winter. The byways website needs serious fixing. Uyizeye feels this is



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difficult to estimate and Commissioners suggest that additional funding would be needed to make this happen outside of the normal contract.

Griffin suggests that meeting be posted through online calendars in the region to help with general awareness of the organization. Uyizeye agrees to look into a list of calendars that provide an easy to add option.

h. Recruitment

Lembke summarizes results from Commissioners plan to stay on in their role. There are 8 remaining out of 15 with most that are leaving planning to replace themselves. For those looking for a replacement, it would be important that commissioners fill a need by filling a similar or other needed skill set, provide some board experience, or are an idea generator. Uyizeye suggest that NH commissioner makeup will have to consider our ability to meeting quorum requirements.

Lembke suggests a goal of 2-4 new commissioners, evenly split between states.

Lembke suggests that given our current makeup, having a Vermont Commissioner as President in FY 2023 may prove difficult. Alternatively, Caduto agrees to consider a Vice-President position, however this would require a formal request to VTANR. Ted Cooley agrees to consider the President position.

Uyizeye suggests that an on-boarding process and materials be clarified before reaching out to new recruits. Lembke agrees and indicates he is working on a process that he will share at the next meeting.

i. Watershed Speaker

Griffin is reaching out the Rich Holschuh as an indigenous speaker at the next full commissions meeting in January. Content may include funds to support the petroglyph site, recognition of the area as an outstanding resource water, and discussion on how CRJC might approach to incorporate the indigenous community as a stakeholder within CRJC.

4. Media requests

Griffin explains this topic came up in relation to a reporter in attendance at the Riverwide event on Native American History and Current Experience. The resulting article focused on the dam relicensing for the Great River Hydro dams. Uyizeye answered a few questions about the speaker series by the organization.

No specific concerns are raised in regard to these events; however, the question is asked on how staff should handle media requests. Commissioners agree that Uyizeye can answer general questions about the organization, although any political topic should be brought to Commissioners before staff or a commissioner responding. Commissioners also indicate that



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Uyizeye can choose a title to represent her role regarding CRJC, such as Administrative Direction or Program Director.

5. Indigenous stakeholder coordination

Commissioners agree that some representation within CRJC by the indigenous communities of the Connecticut River Valley would be appropriate. Griffin and Caduto share that the organization structure of tribes and leadership can be complicated. There are multiple tribes in the Valley and a chief within each tribe. A direct request to a specific individual is not recommended, rather a general request where the community decides whether and how best they can be represented within CRJC. Commissioners agree that discussing this with Rich Holschuh in January would be helpful.

6. Full Commissions agenda and speaker

Expected to be consisted with the last meeting.

7. Social event debrief

Uyizeye explains that the events went well; however, attendance could have been higher. The weekend approach overall seemed to be the more successful strategy in contrast to the meeting dinner. This was slightly different for Commissioners where the meeting and dinner did work well.

In general, Uyizeye and Commissioners agree that focusing on fewer events would do well. CRJC used to host one event for all of CRJC once a year. Uyizeye suggests that two events might also be a good approach – one in the Spring, another in fall: one in the North, another South. Commissioners also suggests that having activities at the events would also be helpful. Thought for budget, and how to accommodate LRS members and Commissions will be needed.

8. LRS update and new membership

Uyizeye presents an application for a new representative from Windsor VT to the Mount Ascutney LRS – Jim Bennett. Griffin agrees to approve the membership until able to be approved by the Full Commissions in January.

4:00 PM Adjourn

The meeting is adjourned.

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.