

Connecticut River Joint Commissions

Giving voice to New England's great river



New Hampshire – Connecticut River Valley Resource Commission

Vermont – Connecticut River Watershed Advisory Commission

The Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) is a bi-state organization dedicated to helping preserve the visual, ecological, and working landscape of the Connecticut River Valley while encouraging and maintaining economic viability throughout.

Guided by this mission, the CRJC strives to help guide proposed watershed activities by initiating, reviewing, and commenting on a wide variety of projects and regulatory proposals such as shoreland protection, energy issues and clean water initiatives. While the Vermont and New Hampshire Commissioners and the local representatives focus on independent activities, they are all united in a shared regard and reverence for the Connecticut River, the surrounding landscape, and the regional ecosystem. This spirit allows them to appreciate successes over the past century, and to identify and share efforts for responsible stewardship into the future. With its full commissions board and its five Local River Subcommittees (LRS), more than 60 volunteers regularly engaged in the CRJC mission during Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) or July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.



Ashley Ferry Boat Landing, Claremont, NH, 2022.

Commissioners work of FY22 was informed by the CRJC's longstanding Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan, its current 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, and 30 years of experience. Commissioners prioritized a full review of organizational functioning, as well as advance bi-state interaction, especially on water quality. During FY22 the CRJC Commissioners specifically engaged in the following activities through research and proactive engagement of local and state stakeholders from both states:

- Water quality conditions and data gaps of the Connecticut River
- FERC hydro-power dam relicensing for the Vernon, Bellows Falls, and Wilder stations
- Climate migration in the Connecticut River Valley
- Series of virtual expert presentations on watershed management topics for CRJC Commissioners, local representatives, and the public
- Public meeting laws that support CRJC functioning as a bi-state organization that convenes representatives from 53 riverfront communities

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We are pleased that both Vermont and New Hampshire have again agreed to fund and sustain the CRJC as we move forward on this array of projects. State funding allows the CRJC to consistently serve communities of the Valley. The CRJC continues to value connection, advocacy, and mutual support, and is dedicated to elevating collective efforts and collaborating with partners. The CRJC acknowledges the funding assistance of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the Vermont LaRosa Partnership to advance water quality monitoring in the Connecticut River during the 2021 and 2022 seasons.



In the coming year, the CRJC will:

- Continue to make improvements to CRJC communications to be accessible and informative
- Convene bi-state staff and stakeholders to discuss collaborative management of the Valley around topics such as local business, local government, agriculture, riverfront landowners, recreation, and conservation
- Advance activities on water quality priorities with state partners and each LRS
- Convene stakeholders to gather input for the Tactical Basin Plans in Vermont
- Produce a New Hampshire Biennial LRS report

The following individuals comprised the Executive Committee of the Joint Commissions for FY22: Steve Lembke, President (VT); Jennifer Griffin, Vice President (NH); Ted Cooley, Secretary (NH); Jason Rasmussen, Treasurer (VT); Ken Hastings (NH); and Marie Caduto (VT).

If you would like more information on any of our projects, or if you are interested in assisting us, please e-mail us at info@crjc.org. For general information on the CRJC see <https://www.crjc.org/>

CRJC Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022 or July 1, 2021 through June 20, 2022

Headwaters Local River Subcommittee

of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions

New Hampshire – Pittsburg, Clarksville, Stewartstown, Colebrook, Columbia, Stratford, Northumberland
Vermont – Canaan (Beecher Falls), Lemington, Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone



Connecticut River – Headwaters Local River Subcommittee – Annual Report 2022

The Headwaters Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets quarterly and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by riverfront municipalities, with allowance for alternates. Throughout 2022, the Subcommittee has maintained a hybrid meeting format where a quorum of participating municipalities is required to be present in person. Current members of Vermont are Tom Caron from Canaan, with openings in Lemington, Bloomfield, Brunswick, and Maidstone. Current members of New Hampshire are Kevin McKinnon from Colebrook, Kenneth Hastings from Columbia, Ed Mellett and Dale Covey from Northumberland, Clayton Macdonald from Stratford, and openings in Pittsburg, Clarksville, and Stewartstown. Those with only one representative have an opening for a second volunteer. During 2022, Ed Mellett served as chair. Meetings and events are open to the public.

Headwaters is one of the five subcommittees a part of the CRJC since 1989. The Subcommittees provide a local voice to help steward the resources on or affecting the Connecticut River, particularly on topics related to the maintenance of good water quality and wildlife habitat. Specific responsibilities include providing feedback on river-related topics to NH Department of Environmental Services, VT Agency of Natural Resources, and municipalities. Feedback covers comments on proposed permits and plans, and maintaining a bi-state corridor management plan.

During 2022, Headwaters engaged on several issues. Permits that were reviewed include those for residential development, pesticide use, emergency railroad maintenance over Cone Brook, and transmission line maintenance. Headwaters is also following repairs at the 2nd Connecticut Lake dam, Wyoming dam removal, and wild and scenic designation for Paul Stream and Nulhegan River.

Headwaters supported outreach efforts in service of the Connecticut River, including a virtual speaker series (see www.crjc.org/riverwide) that delved into conversations on the local river recreation economy, stormwater retrofits, native american history & current experiences, and human & beaver dams. Further, Headwaters supported water quality monitoring efforts at 2 sites along the Connecticut River.

In 2023, Headwaters will continue their activities in management, outreach, and learning for the Connecticut River. Headwaters welcomes local participation in permit reviews, educational events, watershed planning, and water quality monitoring. If you are interested to learn more, please contact us at info@crjc.org.



Riverbend Local River Subcommittee

of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions

New Hampshire – Lancaster, Dalton, Littleton, Monroe, Bath, Haverhill

Vermont – Guildhall, Lunenburg, Concord, Waterford, Barnet, Ryegate, Newbury



Connecticut River – Riverbend Local River Subcommittee – Annual Report 2022

The Riverbend Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets quarterly and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by riverfront municipalities, with allowance for alternates. Throughout 2022, the Subcommittee has maintained a hybrid meeting format where a quorum of participating municipalities is required to be present in person. Current members of Vermont are Bill Graves and John Fairchild from Barnet, Deborah Noble from Concord, Scott Labun from Newbury, Mary Dole from Ryegate, William Piper from Waterford, and openings in Guildhall & Lunenburg. Current members of New Hampshire are Rick Walling from Bath, Gal Potashnick from Dalton, Pauline Corzilius and Howard Hatch from Haverhill, Rob Christie from Lancaster, and openings in Littleton and Monroe. Those with one representative have an opening for a second volunteer. During 2022, Rick Walling served as chair. Meetings and events are open to the public.

Riverbend is one of the five subcommittees a part of the CRJC since 1989. The Subcommittees provide a local voice to help steward the resources on or affecting the Connecticut River, particularly on topics related to the maintenance of good water quality and wildlife habitat. Specific responsibilities include providing feedback on river-related topics to NH Department of Environmental Services, VT Agency of Natural Resources, and municipalities. Feedback covers comments on proposed permits and plans, and maintaining a bi-state corridor management plan.

During 2022, Riverbend engaged on several issues. Permits that were reviewed include a commercial development and new dock in Lancaster, residential development in Littleton, and the recertification of the Fifteen Miles Falls project for the Low Impact Hydro Institute. Riverbend is also following the potential acquisition of Holton Island in Lancaster by the Town.

Riverbend supported outreach efforts in service of the Connecticut River, including a virtual speaker series (see www.crjc.org/riverwide) that delved into conversations on the local river recreation economy, stormwater retrofits, native american history & current experiences, and human & beaver dams. Further, Riverbend supported water quality monitoring efforts at 5 sites along the Connecticut River.

In 2023, Riverbend will continue their activities in management, outreach, and learning for the Connecticut River. Riverbend welcomes local participation in permit reviews, educational events, watershed planning, and water quality monitoring. If you are interested to learn more, please contact us at info@crjc.org.



Upper Valley Local River Subcommittee

of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions

New Hampshire – Piermont, Orford, Lyme, Hanover, Lebanon

Vermont – Bradford, Fairlee, Thetford, Norwich, Hartford



Connecticut River – Upper Valley Local River Subcommittee – Annual Report 2022

The Upper Valley Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets every two months and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by riverfront municipalities, with allowance for alternates. Throughout 2022, the Subcommittee has maintained a hybrid meeting format where a quorum of participating municipalities is required to be present in person. Current members of Vermont are Ben Dana from Fairlee; Lynn Bohi and David Barrell from Hartford; Bill Bridge and Linda Matteson from Thetford; Chet Clem from Norwich; and openings in Bradford. Current members of New Hampshire are Alice Creagh from Hanover; Ruth Bleyler, Eric Agterberg and Bruce Garland (alternate) from Lebanon; Bill Malcolm from Lyme; Carl Schmidt and Edmond Cooley from Orford; and openings in Piermont. Those with one representative have an opening for a second volunteer. During 2022, Bill Malcolm served as chair. Meetings and events are open to the public.

Upper Valley is one of the five subcommittees a part of the CRJC since 1989. The Subcommittees provide a local voice to help steward the resources on or affecting the Connecticut River, particularly on topics related to the maintenance of good water quality and wildlife habitat. Specific responsibilities include providing feedback on river-related topics to NH Department of Environmental Services, VT Agency of Natural Resources, and municipalities. Feedback covers comments on proposed permits and plans, and maintaining a bi-state corridor management plan.

During 2022, Upper Valley engaged several issues. Projects that were reviewed include multiple bridge replacements, expanded mining and methane capture facilities in Lebanon, culvert replacement in Fairlee, dock installation in Hanover, herbicide use in Orford, new apartment complex in Hartford, and fish passage settlement for the relicensing of Wilder Dam. Upper Valley is also following the relicensing of the Glen Hydro Facility on the Mascoma River.

Upper Valley supported outreach efforts in service of the Connecticut River, including a virtual speaker series (see www.crjc.org/riverwide) that delved into conversations on the local river recreation economy, stormwater retrofits, native american history & current experiences, and human & beaver dams. Further, Upper Valley supported water quality monitoring efforts along the Connecticut River.

In 2023, Upper Valley will continue their activities in management, outreach, and learning for the Connecticut River. Upper Valley welcomes local participation in permit reviews, educational events, watershed planning, and water quality monitoring. If you are interested to learn more, please contact us at info@crjc.org.



Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee

of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions

New Hampshire – Plainfield, Cornish, Claremont, Charlestown

Vermont – Hartland, Windsor, Weathersfield, Springfield, Rockingham



Connecticut River – Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee – Annual Report 2022

The Mount Ascutney Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets every two months and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by riverfront municipalities, with allowance for alternates. Throughout 2022, the Subcommittee has maintained a hybrid meeting format where a quorum of participating municipalities is required to be present in person. Current members of Vermont are Judy Howland from Hartland, William Manner and Kelly Stettner from Springfield, Howard Beach from Weathersfield, and Michael Metivier and Jim Bennett from Windsor, and openings in Rockingham. Current members of New Hampshire are John Streeter from Charlestown, Colleen O'Neill and Jeffrey Plan from Cornish, David Taylor from Plainfield, and openings in Claremont. Those with only one representative have an opening for a second volunteer. During 2022, David Taylor from Plainfield served as chair. Meetings and events are open to the public.

Mount Ascutney is one of the five subcommittees a part of the CRJC since 1989. The Subcommittees provide a local voice to help steward the resources on or affecting the Connecticut River, particularly on topics related to the maintenance of good water quality and wildlife habitat. Specific responsibilities include providing feedback on river-related topics to NH Department of Environmental Services, VT Agency of Natural Resources, and municipalities. Feedback covers comments on proposed permits and plans, and maintaining a bi-state corridor management plan.

During 2022, Mount Ascutney engaged on several issues. Permits that were reviewed include multiple on herbicide use, water infrastructure improvement in Charlestown, farm store development in Hartland, industrial park buildout in Windsor, and boat landing replacement in Claremont. Mount Ascutney also provided comments to the VT Basin 10 Tactical Basin Plan for the Black and Ottauquechee Rivers, and continues to monitor the Bellows Falls Dam relicensing activity.

Mount Ascutney also supported outreach efforts in service of the Connecticut River, including a virtual speaker series (see www.crjc.org/riverwide) that delved into conversations on the local river recreation economy, stormwater retrofits, native american history & current experiences, and human & beaver dams. Further, Mount Ascutney supported water quality monitoring efforts at two sites along the Connecticut River.

In 2023, Mount Ascutney will continue their activities in management, outreach, and learning for the Connecticut River. Mount Ascutney welcomes local participation in permit reviews, educational events, watershed planning, and water quality monitoring. If you are interested to learn more, please contact us at info@crjc.org.



Wantastiquet Local River Subcommittee

of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions

New Hampshire – Walpole, Westmoreland, Chesterfield, Hinsdale
Vermont – Westminster, Putney, Dummerston, Brattleboro, Vernon



Connecticut River – Wantastiquet Local River Subcommittee – Annual Report 2022

The Wantastiquet Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets every two months and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by riverfront municipalities, with allowance for alternates. Throughout 2022, the Subcommittee has maintained a hybrid meeting format where a quorum of participating municipalities is required to be present in person. Current members of Vermont are Kathy Urffer and Michael Fairchild from Brattleboro, Andy White from Vernon, Jim Calchera from Westminster, and openings in Putney and Dummerston. Current members of New Hampshire are Roland Volbehr from Chesterfield, Mike Darcy from Hinsdale, Samantha Loch from Walpole, and Perry Sawyer from Westmoreland. Those with one representative have an opening for a second volunteer. During 2022, Perry Sawyer from Westmoreland served as chair. Meetings and events are open to the public.

Wantastiquet is one of the five subcommittees a part of the CRJC since 1989. The Subcommittees provide a local voice to help steward the resources on or affecting the Connecticut River, particularly on topics related to the maintenance of good water quality and wildlife habitat. Specific responsibilities include providing feedback on river-related topics to NH Department of Environmental Services, VT Agency of Natural Resources, and municipalities. Feedback covers comments on proposed permits and plans, and maintaining a bi-state corridor management plan.

During 2022, Wantastiquet engaged on several issues. Permits that were reviewed include an alteration of terrain permit in Walpole, ACT250 permit in Dummerston, stormwater discharges in Westminster, and a fish passage settlement for the relicensing of Vernon Dam. Wantastiquet also kept track of River impacts at the new Putney rowing club and a chemical discharge due to fire in Brattleboro.

Wantastiquet also supported outreach efforts in service of the Connecticut River, including a virtual speaker series (see www.crjc.org/riverwide) that delved into conversations on the local river recreation economy, stormwater retrofits, native american history & current experiences, and human & beaver dams. Further, Wantastiquet supported water quality monitoring efforts at six sites along the Connecticut River.

In 2023, Wantastiquet will continue their activities in management, outreach, and learning for the Connecticut River. Wantastiquet welcomes local participation in permit reviews, educational events, watershed planning, and water quality monitoring. If you are interested to learn more, please contact us at info@crjc.org.

