

## CRJC Headwaters Subcommittee

### Minutes

Saturday, September 17, 2022 - 1:00PM

In Person Meeting – Weeks State Park, Lancaster, NH

### Attendees

Pittsburg			Northumberland	Edwin Mellett	P
Pittsburg			Northumberland	Dale Covey	P
Colebrook	Kevin McKinnon	P	Bloomfield		
Colebrook			Bloomfield		
Stratford			Lemington		
Stratford	Clayton Macdonald	X	Lemington		
Clarksville			Maidstone		
Clarksville			Maidstone		
Stewartstown			Canaan	Tom Caron	X
Stewartstown			Canaan		
Columbia	Kenneth Hastings	P	Brunswick		
Columbia			Brunswick		

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

In Person: Terri Williams (Vermont House of Representatives, Essex-Caledonia District); Terry Williams (Granby, VT); Olivia Uyizeye (Staff, UVLSRPC)

### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Mellett called the meeting to order at 1 PM. Mellett welcomes attendees who then introduce themselves.

#### 2. Meeting Minutes from March

McKinnon moves to accept the March minutes. Covey seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

#### 3. Permit Reviews

##### a. Emergency Authorization Permit (2022-02539). For informational purposes only.

NHDOT owned railroad corridor, North Stratford to Columbia, Bridge # 137.75 over Cone Brook. Slope erosion on the N.W. corner of the railroad bridge crossing Cone Brook is compromising the railroad track system. To prevent further slope erosion and risk of track closure, NHDOT proposes to reestablish the original brook bed elevation at the downstream end of the bridge's invert.

Hastings asks how deep NHDOT is going, which is not known by anyone in attendance.

##### b. Permit Issued to Repair concrete dam abutment in-kind on the 2nd Connecticut Lake dam along the Connecticut River in Pittsburgh.

Mellett provides a summary and no comments are made.

#### 4. Other Communications

##### a. Wyoming Dam Update

Mellett informs the group, as reported by Ron Rhodes of CRC via email, that the Wyoming dam removal project has been completed. The access road built for the project has been seeded and mulched.

## **5. Updates & Other Business**

### **a. Permit numbers**

Members discuss the low number of permits being submitted. One cause suggested being the cost of construction. McKinnon describes that NHDOT is having trouble getting bidders due to the fluctuating prices and business not willing to take the risk.

### **a. Wild and scenic river for Paul Stream and Nulhegan River**

Terri introduces herself as a VT legislator in the Headwaters region. She explains one topic that she is keeping track of - the potential designation of Paul Stream and Nulhegan River as a wild and scenic river, under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Of particular concern are potential restrictions placed on landowners under this designation.

Hastings comments that he has no objections to the project. Federal involvement does not particularly concern him, although it does many others in the region. Hastings does not see any problem with the designation and that it would not impact current use.

McKinnon notes that as long as current use is not being impacted, restricting what landowners can do on their land, it is acceptable.

Terri notes uncertainty on how these lands would be managed in contrast to those on the Silvio Conte Refuge, which has placed additional restrictions on property owners for uses such as hunting and outdoor recreation. These impacts are being considered as part of a lawsuit against the refuge.

Covey agrees that the addition of restrictions beyond current use is almost like a taking. Covey is unclear what the wild and scenic designation means and that a request to someone like Noah Pollock who is working on the issue, may help the group to better understand the issue. With federal programs, it is typical for more strings to be attached.

Terri agrees that it is important to make an informed decision on this matter.

## **6. Adjourn**

Mellett makes a motion to adjourn. McKinnon seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

### **Next Meeting**

December 15, 2022 @ 7:00PM

*Respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.*