

Upper Valley Subcommittee
Minutes
Monday, January 23, 2022 – 6:00 PM Meeting
Virtual Meeting

Attendance

NH Members:	Attendance
Alice Creagh, Hanover	X
Vacancy, Hanover	
Eric Agterberg, Lebanon	V
Ruth Bleyler, Lebanon	X
Bruce Garland, Lebanon (alt)	X
Bill Malcolm, Lyme	V
Vacancy, Lyme	
Ted Cooley, Orford	V
Carl Schmidt, Orford	X
Vacancy, Piermont	
Vacancy, Piermont	

VT Members:	Attendance
Vacancy, Bradford	
Vacancy, Bradford	
Ben Dana, Fairlee	V
Vacancy, Fairlee	
David Barrell, Hartford	X
Lynn Bohi, Hartford	V
Bill Bridge, Thetford	V
Linda Matteson, Thetford	V
Chet Clem, Norwich	X
Vacancy, Norwich	

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

All members attended virtually.

CC Members: Kate Buckman (River Steward, Connecticut River Conservancy); Andrea Cass (Staff, UVLSRPC), Brian Vincent (Lebanon)

NO QUORUM PRESENT. To meet a quorum, in person attendance from at least half of communities with representatives is required.

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Bill Malcolm starts the meeting at 6:03PM. Chair Malcolm conducts a roll call of LAC members, invited guests to introduce themselves, and welcomed all present.

2. Meeting Minutes October

Meeting minutes could not be approved due to a lack of a quorum.

3. Permit Review

a. Lebanon NHDOT Rt12A Bridge

Vincent provided updates regard the Rt12A bridge project. They are waiting for final design approval from DOT. Bohi asked about pedestrian lanes. There is a sidewalk proposed in the project. They will have 2 lanes open to keep traffic moving. Construction is set to begin in 2024. There has been a holdup with final design and NEPA. If these are not approved by early February, the project will likely be delayed.

Agterberg asked about an old spring on Rt 12A (southern part of the project). He asked if there were precautions to protect the well as it is a historic. There is a sign that marks the well. Vincent said he will look into it as he is not aware of it being included in the plan. Agterberg noted there has been a lot of

knotweed and asked about invasive species control. Vincent said it was being reviewed as part of the NEPA document. It notes they should use best practices for invasive control.

b. Wetlands Bureau, NHDES File Number: 2019-01230
Erosion Control plan Request for More Information
Subject Property: East Thetford Rd, Lyme, Tax Map #403, Lot #ROW

The erosion control plan was approved for this project.

4. Updates & Other Business

a. Survey Results

Hastings is a commissioner for the CRJC and is an LRS headwaters member. Hastings thanked the members for their work and highlighted the importance of their work.

Hastings provided some background information about the Commission. The president was concerned with the lack of organization and the CRJC as a whole. When CRJC first began, the working budget was around \$125k and now we are working with \$47k. In the 90s, there were grants given out.

Olivia put together a summary of the survey and Hastings provided some key findings. First, the Commission didn't stress what LRS stands for (local river subcommittee). Hastings said that there needs to be better communication between commissioners and local river subcommittees. He stressed that the commissioners are available for them to reach out.

Permit review and staff support was noted as very important by survey respondents.

Malcolm noted how about half of the members attend the LRS meetings. Hastings noted how there were similar challenges with attendance in Headwaters. Recruitment has been a challenge for the LRSs and Commission. He highlighted the importance of all members encouraging other people to join. All the selectboards have received flyers to nominate people.

The survey indicated people were unsure of how long they would stay with the Commission or if they would be able to replace themselves.

Many members didn't know what the Commission does. Hastings noted how selectmen boards can be a challenge but to keep pushing if there is an issue. Repetition gets change.

The commissioners are there to support LRS. Olivia and Hastings will be putting out an easier-to-read survey to everyone.

Malcolm mentioned how other LRS are also having troubles with membership.. It would be nice to see the comments for permits are acknowledged from DES.

Buckman mentioned how this was important feedback for DES. They want to make sure their voices are being heard. Bridge how this was even more important for Vermont given the permit process is less stringent.

Malcolm said there is no statutory requirement for comments to be considered. Malcolm mentioned this to Tracie and her response was that DES is understaffed and underfunded.

b. Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act

Buckman mentioned how this is more so for Massachusetts. Malcolm noted how it didn't seem like it would change the work they are currently doing.

5. Updates & Other Business

Malcolm said there needs to be a vice chair and to include it in the agenda at the next meeting.

6. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 6:55 pm.

*The next meeting will be **Monday, March 20th at 6 pm.** Respectfully Submitted by Cass.*