

CRJC Headwaters Subcommittee

Minutes

Thursday, December 15, 2022 - 7:00PM
In Person Meeting – Town Hall, Colebrook, NH

Attendees

Pittsburg			Northumberland	Edwin Mellett	X
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: Noah Pollock

Virtual: Olivia Uyizeye (Staff, UVLSRPC)

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dale Covey called the meeting to order at 715PM. Covey welcomes attendees who then introduce themselves.

2. Meeting Minutes from September

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

3. Discussion with Noah Pollock on Wild & Scenic designation for the Nulhegan River & Paul Stream

Members share their experience with Nulhegan River and Paul Stream. Many have been on all or parts of these water bodies and their tributaries. Some express that the best management practices required by the state of Vermont are very adequate and that designation may be unnecessarily restrictive of some uses such as hunting. There is a great deal of oversight already. Some express that the wild and scenic designation opens doors for funding and expert advisors to this part of the watershed. Some concern for management of forest fire under this designation.

Pollock explains his experience in the watershed for nearly 30 years. Pollock explains that the wild and scenic designation process began in 2021 after those involved in the Sylvia Conte Refuge pushed for its consideration. At this point the National Park Service engaged presented on the program. The designations here in New Hampshire would be quite different than those out west, most known for their participation in their program. In NH it would be a partnership designation. It would not be federal land.

Pollock describes that to be designated the area must be studied for eligibility and suitability. Is it a special waterbody? Then the management needs to protect the river's value. A study must be approved by an act of congress. In order to propose that bill, the legislature wants to see community support, such as meetings with select boards and other local bodies. Pollock indicates that 4/5 selectboards from communities in this part of the watershed have submitted letters of supports. Brunswick who did not submit a letter, indicated they are fine with doing the study but don't want to give a letter of support, they are agnostic about it. So far 17 letters of support have been submitted. A bill was introduced in February 2022 but did not get to vote. The bill will have to be reintroduced, giving more assistance and push to bring it to a vote.

Pollock explains that the most stringent teeth with designation relate to dams as locations with dams are not allowed under this designation.

4. Permit Reviews

- a. Forestry, SPN, Pittsburg, for informational purposes only (2022-03025)**
- b. Shoreland Permit, Clarksville (2022-03277) – "Leasee wishes to relocate existing cabin onto new concrete foundation back further away from the lake and install an individual sewage disposal system."**

75' from high water, septic system. Septic design is well. In the vicinity of a lot of camps. Close to Clark Brook. No comment. Support the plan as presented – Hastings/Caron.

5. Updates & Other Business

6. Adjourn

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

Next Meeting

March 23, 2022 @ 7:00PM

Respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.