



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, August 21, 2023 - 2 PM
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 (Ted Cooley), Vice President (Marie Caduto), Secretary (Jeffrey Miller), and Treasurer (Jason Rasmussen).

| Officer | NH CRVRC | | VT CRWAC | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Chair | Ted Cooley | V | Marie Caduto | X |
| Vice-Chair | Jeffrey Miller | P | Margo Ghia | P |
| Secretary / Treasurer | Vacant | | Jason Rasmussen | X |
| Most recent past CRJC President | Jennifer Griffin | 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 Cooley convenes the meeting at 2:10 PM.

1. Minutes Review (May 2023 Notes, Feb 2022 Minutes)

Minutes review is postponed to the next meeting with a quorum.

1. July Financials

Uyizeye reports that Rasmussen reviewed the financials with no concerns to raise.

MacEwan noted that CRJC ended the year under budget.

2. Continuing Assessment Plan (all goals with expected updates underlined)

1- Funding

- Cooley confirms that information on new CRJC officers is required for managing the CRJC bank account for this fiscal year through the Bar Harbor Bank.
- Uyizeye confirms that the NH bi-annual contract went through on time, and that the FY24 VT contract is in process to go through this November with a \$35,000 request.
- Griffin reports on an email from Marie Caduto that the FY25 request for VT will be \$40,000.
- Griffin and Cooley agree that an increase is unlikely in NH, although Tracie Sales has made the request.



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- Miller reminds the group to work on outreach to legislators to help secure the budget increases requested from both states.
- Uyizeye reports that a draft proposal for the NHCF unrestricted grant is being prepared for final submission on Sept 8. This grant will be requested for \$20,000.

2- Staffing

- Uyizeye informs the EC that Majestic Terhune will be working on the CRJC contract after Andrea Cass left the UVLSRPC. Terhune will be working with three local river subcommittees, supporting in person needs, and will be providing support on communications tasks.
- Ghia reports on the team's plan to present a draft RFP with key components at the September FC meeting.

5- Recruit/Retain

- Griffin reports on this team's meeting where the team reviewed an outline of goals and recruitment process. This includes cheat sheets to support communications for recruiters and onboarding.
- Miller shares the team's intention to outreach to commissioners from the agriculture sector.
- Miller suggests asking all Commissioners for names to add to the list, this will help the recruitment team. Commissioners agree that making a direct request would be helpful before the next Full Commissions meeting. Ask – two to three names based on details on the sectors and skillsets in need of.
- Cooley suggests asking for input on vacant riverside community representatives, as well.

3. Local river subcommittee & Social event

Uyizeye reports that the LRS meetings have been productive and well attended this Summer. A full report will be ready for the September Full Commissions meeting.

Uyizeye shares that planning for the October social event continues. Response rate on RSVP has been slow. Cooley notes his receipt of some push back on its occurrence on Columbus Day weekend. Uyizeye asks if legislators and partners should be invited. Commissioners agree that at least a done members need to be confirmed for attendance before sending an invite to legislators. Uyizeye will ask for RSVPs by the end of August to plan accordingly.

4. NH Quorum Rule Updates

The adopted HB308 bill in New Hampshire will go into effect on October 3, 2023. This applies to some state boards, including local river advisory committees which CRJC falls under. The new rules allow for new quorum rules. The rules require that a reduced one-third of voting members be present, with the remaining members to meet or exceed a quorum be allowed to attend virtually. Virtual presence requires approval from the board and notation in the minutes as to the reason, along with other process requirements. A chair may call for an emergency session which allows for fully remote participation under limited circumstances.



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5. FY2023 Annual Report – Draft

Uyizeye reports that previous annual reports have been reviewed by EC members but not formally voted on. Edits by Rasmussen and Caduto have been incorporated. The report will be distributed later this month.

6. September Full Commissions agenda

Griffin asks that Summer flooding be added to the agenda.

7. Updates & other business

a. Summer Flooding

- Ghia appreciated communications by Griffin on dam activity during the flooding.
- Miller asks about a huge pile of debris on the center abutment of the Route 123 bridge. It is unclear who monitors this. Griffin reports that for a CRC project to remove a dam on the Saxtons River, items were also found underneath.
- Griffin also reports that for the Cold River, trees have fallen in and not clear. There is concern for damage along roads. Miller notes concern for erosion control by farm fields. Cooley adds that woody debris in streams can be useful as a flood abatement strategy and to provide habitat.
- Cooley notes the discussion warrants more learning on this topic.

b. Hydro-relicensing

- Griffin notes there is no new update on the Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon dams. FERC may be waiting for comments on the First Light agreement before proceeding. That could be issues in the next month or so.
- Once moved along, there will be sixty days for the state 401c process. Then there will be a year for states to respond including public comment. FERC will also produce the environmental assessment with opportunity for final comment, as well as the final license.
- Griffin notes that McClammer will likely be the best Commissioner to contact once comment periods come up. This will allow for the Commissioner FERC subcommittee to decide how best to proceed. Uyizeye will contact McClammer once the FERC process warrants more discussion.

c. Connecticut River watershed partnership act

No update is reported.

d. Long Island Sound Futures Fund

Approved and proposed projects are underway. No major updates currently.

4:00 PM Adjourn

The meeting is adjourned.

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.