



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

Full Commissions Meeting
 Monday, March 27th, 2023 - 2 PM
 Hybrid Meeting – Kilton Library, Lebanon, NH

ATTENDANCE

NH CRVRC COMMISSIONERS			VT CRWAC COMMISSIONERS		
NCC	OPEN		Sec. Nat. Resources	Marie Caduto	P
UVLSRPC	Ted Cooley	V	NVDA	Beth Torpey	V
SWRPC	Jeffrey Miller	P	WRC	Chris Company	P
	Harriet Davenport (alt)	X		Margo Ghia (alt)	V
CRC	Ken Hastings	P	MARC	Jason Rasmussen	X
CRFCC	OPEN		TRORC	Pete Fellows	X
Hydro-Electric	Jen Griffin	P	RPC#5	OPEN	
Conservation	OPEN		At Large	Steve Lembke	V
Tourism	OPEN		At Large	Beth Kennett	V
Agricultural	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	
Forest Products	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	
At Large	Jim McClammer	V	At Large	OPEN	
At Large	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	
At Large	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	
At Large	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	
At Large	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	

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

Additional attendance

In Person: Olivia Uyizeye, Staff Consultant.

AGENDA

2:00 PM Convene

1. Welcome

President Griffin starts the meeting at 2:15pm. Commissioners and guests in attendance introduce themselves.

2. Adopt/Review Minutes of February

Griffin opens the February meeting minutes for review. A few edits from Griffin are shared, corrections on names of organizations and basic edits.

By motion of Lembke/Hastings, the minutes are approved with edits suggested. The motion passes with abstention from McClammer.

3. Financial Report and Status of FY2023 deliverables & budget

As reported from the previous meeting, the budget is going as expected. Lembke asks about having MacEwan present at the next meeting. Uyizeye to ask about cost and availability for MacEwan to review previous year and discuss considerations for next.

By motion of Company/Caduto, the financials are approved. The motion passes unanimously.



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4. Revitalization and Assessment Plan Update

a. Goal 1, Funding: Vermont budget update

Caduto reports that the proposed budget has been upped to \$35,000 and no one foresees any issues with it going through for FY2024. Caduto has already approved the most recent invoice.

b. Goal 5, Bi-state discussions: update on Climate Migration, Water Quality, Agriculture, Legislators propose topics going forward.

Caduto, Climate migration – World Café happening this Wed, and next virtual CRJC-hosted session on April 20th. Focusing on what the need is, what we need to do, infrastructure investment, and where to get the funding for those kinds of projects. Prompted some conversation on other potential topics around diversity in communities.

Company – it may be worth a follow up discussion around front line communities and climate migration. People who are here and coming. How that can be done at the local level. Candid conversation on the why and who.

Caduto/Company/Lembke – Some concerns raised in email list servs about representation of BIPOC communities in climate migration discussion. Should be saying in messaging that we are welcoming communities across the board. Not directed at CRJC thus does not have responded to. Real opportunity for CRJC to address equity up front, especially where it is related to the Connecticut River, such as subsistence angling. There's a role for CRJC, to host that equity, diversity conversation. Think about it in line with new commissioners. Initial, careful approach.

Water Quality – funding for the gage at the MA border is the biggest piece. Nothing further.

Agriculture – Thinking sometime in the Fall.

c. Goal 6, CRJC-LRS relationship: LRS Survey – Actions List

Griffin explains that the LRS survey has been summarized with an actions list. Looking for Commissioner approval to move that forward and a team to do it.

Hastings reviews some of the actions, including the need for Commissioners to attend LRS meetings and what Commissioners are doing on different issues. CRJC will not exist without the grassroots. At least to know what Commissioners are doing. Attending even once per year will be great.

List of special projects for LRS – Need by Commissioner to budget funding funding to develop project proposals. This is significant. Option to do mini-grants \$500 to \$1,000.

Uyizeye will follow up with Commissioners about getting on the email list for desired LRS.

By motion of Lembke/Caduto, the listed actions are approved. The motion passes unanimously.

a. Goal 8, Recruitment:

Lembke. Presents recruitment plan as a 10-week strategy. The minimum goal is to replace all the departing Commissioners. 3/6 of departing Commissioners expect to be replaced. The maximum goal is to replace 3 and identify 3 additional. Strategies listed in the report. Asks for approval to move this forward.



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Hastings suggests recruitment of LRS members, which could be furthered through the Commissioner attendance at meetings.

If we have names of people, where do we share those names so the recruitment team can move forward in those contacts? A document on the cloud will be set up for Commissioner to give their input.

Clarification on the appointment process for Commissioners is needed.

5. Review Fiscal Year 2024 Proposal

a. Revitalization and Assessment Plan Phase II

Lembke reviews draft plan. A lot of it echoes the same approach a phase 1 without the dread. Teams to come that can incorporate recruitment outcomes. A far more positive picture for 2023-2024.

Griffin adds that this helps move us forward into the next year.

b. Leadership

Griffin acknowledges leadership change over the next year, which will be supported by staff and outgoing president. Some documentation will be crafted to support leadership onboarding. Griffin notes that the bylaws require the President switch off by state each year, this round we will have two NH in a row with a VT lined up for the following year.

c. Riverwide Speaker Series - chose two topics from proposal

Uyizeye shares a draft list of topics.

Caduto suggests Long Island. Griffin confirms, helps to bridge that connection between LRS and Commissioners. Kennett agrees. Torpey asks about the audience, Uyizeye confirms LRS members as the primary, and then public.

Caduto/Kennett, suggest for a second topic a combined floodplain and conserved land. How to make that effort appealing to conserve floodplains. Company suggests flood resilience. What can local communities do. Think about floodplain access above and below. New recreation access.

WQ/habitat/recreation/economy. Dover VT former golf course moving towards conservation through buyouts. Flood hazard bylaws are important to review.

By motion of Kennett/Miller, a Nitrogen and Floodplain/Conservation talk is approved. The motion passes unanimously.

d. CRJC/LRS Socials – review proposal

Uyizeye shares proposal for a 2023 social event.

Caduto reflects that past events had a farm tour, speaker, some sort of food, later afternoon event during the week in the summer. Really well attended. We could have one that dealt with different issues. Find the major venues, be both informational/social. Include legislators and partners. Everyone got to know everyone, how CRJC is connected. Shows partners this is what we do and why it makes a difference.

Griffin. Suggests something a bit smaller. Something to build on. Invite partners we think will attend. Speakers to help bring people in. Like the afternoon idea. Driving is a real consideration for older members.



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Kennett. Agrees with what has been shared. Dietary restrictions have been expanded. Catering with signs and ingredients is more likely for feasible than a pot luck. Smaller is more realistic. People volunteering for projects along the river have declined.

Commissioners agree to budget for one social, on the smaller side, for everyone. Suggests that staff select a venue and then solicit input on date and other content. Suggest keeping it simple, weekend/weekday vs. specific dates. A suggestion is made to have the Silvio Conte Refuge for presentation.

e. Draft Task List

Uyizeye shares draft task list for FY24 according to feasibility. No suggestions are made to move items into a different priority/feasibility category.

6. LISFF Stormwater Proposal

Uyizeye provides a summary of the LISFF stormwater proposal to be put forward by UVLSRPC. Asking for a letter of support. The program is intended to focus on the great Upper Valley. Tasks to include stormwater regulatory reviews, project design and permitting preparation, community of practice for road agents and municipal leaders, and a regional stormwater action plan. Project development task to focus on NH communities.

Company suggests looking at the Urban Community Forestry Project for funding that will be pushing out a lot of trees for underserved communities. Each state will have money available.

By motion of Kennett/Hastings, a letter of support is approved with review by Company/Caduto/Miller. The motion passes unanimously.

7. Updates and Other Business

a. NHCF Unrestricted Grant

Griffin notes a deadline of September 8th. An initial proposal will be brought to the June meeting for discussion and motion.

b. Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival May 7, 2023

Griffin explains that several commissioners are willing to attend and promote CRJC. Uyizeye will collect materials for their use.

c. Hydro-relicensing

Griffin explains that First light did file an update on March 24th. FERC is looking to the end of May to submit their Environmental Review goal. The settlement agreement is for flows and fish passage, not yet for recreation and streambank erosion. GRH has indicated to FERC that they will be submitting an amendment with details on the minimum flow unit for 300 cfs.

d. Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act (Friends of Conte)

Company. Legislation sign on is in process.

Question is raised about the Refuge goals for acquisition. An infusion of federal funds may allow this to advance. In the process to acquire Glebe Mountain. Good communication between CRJC and Refuge in the past. Farther north in the Valley there is resistance to federal agencies acquiring more land.

e. LRS quarterly report



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Uyizeye summarizes LRS quarterly report with specific mention of new membership.

By motion of Griffin/Caduto, Jennifer Caron of Stratford NH is approved as a new LRS member to Headwaters. The motion passes unanimously.

f. LISFF agriculture update

Uyizeye/Caduto explain that the Windham NRCD is underway in their agriculture project from the LISFF grant. CRJC has been asked to sit on the steering committee. There is funding to allow Uyizeye to sit in this role unless a member is able/willing to take that seat. Kennett offers to reach out to agricultural stakeholders that may like to participate.

g. America the Beautiful

Campany explains America the Beautiful, Habitat connectivity project. This program would allow for a Natural resource planner full time for 3 years at VT regional commissions. This would be in addition to the urban community forestry program mentioned earlier. Work would build on the VT Conservation Design and Staying Connected initiative – that furthers habitat block continuity from NY to Canada.

h. Google drive functioning

Commissioners confirm that the drive is useful. Some request content attached in the email as well.

4:00 PM Adjourn

Griffin thanks everyone for attending.

By motion of Hastings/Campany the meeting is adjourned. The motion passes unanimously.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.