



CRJC Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee

Monday, August 1, 2022

7 PM

Windsor Welcome Center and Conference Call

Attendees

Plainfield	<i>Open</i>		Windsor	Michael Metivier	
Plainfield	David Taylor		Windsor	<i>Jim Bennett</i>	In Person
Cornish	Jeffrey Plant	In Person	Weathersfield	Howard Beach	In Person
Cornish	Colleen O’Neill	In Person	Weathersfield	<i>Open</i>	
Claremont	<i>Open</i>		Springfield	Bill Manner	In Person
Claremont	<i>Open</i>		Springfield	Kelly Stettner	Virtual
Hartland	Cordelia Merritt	Virtual	Rockingham	Thomas Hernon	
Hartland	Judy Howland	Virtual	Rockingham	<i>Open</i>	
Charlestown	<i>Open</i>				
Charlestown	John Streeter				

Virtual: Dakin Burdick (Claremont)

In Person: Jim Bennett (Windsor), Clay Hawkins (Claremont), Marie Caduto (VTANR), Olivia Uyizeye (CRJC staff)

Minutes

1. Welcome & Introductions

CRJC staff Olivia Uyizeye calls the meeting to order at 710PM. Uyizeye welcomes all present. Attendees and visitors introduce themselves.

2. Meeting Minutes from July (for approval)

A motion by Beach/O’Neill, to approve the July 2021 minutes as written passes unanimously.

3. Permit Review

No permits to review currently.

4. Basin 10 Tactical Basin Plan Priorities Review with Marie Caduto

Uyizeye recaps discussion on the Basin 10 tactical basin plan from the May 2022 Mount Ascutney LRS meeting.

Marie Caduto reviews with members the purpose of the Basin 10 tactical basin plan and project review request. The tactical basin plans focus on improvements for watershed water quality and habitat. The plans result in a long list of projects. For Basin 10 – Black and Ottauquechee Rivers, there are just under 50 projects currently on the list from riverfront communities that have not been implemented or under development. Caduto is looking for guidance on what members think are the most important projects and types of projects to be done – based on

existing projects and new projects. Types of projects by sector include agriculture, developed lands on stormwater or roads, wastewater, and natural resource restoration. Find out more at the VT DEC website - <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/watershed-planning/tactical-basin-planning/basin10>

The following items were identified by those in attendance to be included or given a high priority in the Basin 10 update:

- Protect Connecticut river corridor natural movement through river corridor conservation easements, especial on farmland
- Listed project 2831 and 2852 for abutment removal above Ascutney Basin Road bridge and stream restoration downstream of the bridge causing sedimentation and public safety concerns
- Listed project 2171 for Clinton Street combined sewer overflow abatement in Springfield VT
- Reduce contamination from salt, and the sugar additives used by road management agencies.
- Seek cross-state collaboration on river corridor protections with the state of New Hampshire.
- Prioritize Mile Brook projects, special mention given to the dam removal on Valley St.
- Prioritize Hubbard Brook with various stormwater issues from different directions.

Additional and supporting discussion summarized below:

- Manner explains work done in Springfield to address high bacteria loads from unknown sewer pipes that have been addressed by the Town at considerable expense
- Funding consideration. Caduto notes a significant amount of funding and opportunity currently available through the state of Vermont, ARPA, and Infrastructure funding to support a variety of projects. Caduto explains replacing culverts and bridges is not a high priority for TBP due to the high cost of these projects and funding availability. VT basin planners work closely with VT AOT.
- Caduto explains some main projects listed were informed by the stormwater master plans. These have been vetted by the Towns and VT DEC. Manner expresses support for this work. Vermont Stormwater mapping work can be found here - <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/solutions/developed-lands/idde>
- Merritt asks priority given to projects reduce risk of catastrophic flooding. Caduto comments that floodplain restoration projects help to slow and hold high flows while stormwater work reduces the volume of flow rushing to the rivers during a storm event.
- Some Connecticut River farms lose 30 to 40 feed every year from bank destabilization.
- Concerns raised about housing development projects raised along the Connecticut River river corridor, which should not be an allowed land use for ecosystem function and public safety concern.
- Beach explains from his work in Connecticut on stormwater projects that the technique of a plunge pool with vegetated swale to slow water and reduce pollutants can be very effective where the slope of the terrain is not too steep.

5. Updates & Other Business

Uyizeye shares the following updates:

- More information will be coming soon on the next events of the riverwide speaker series.
- The Mount Ascutney social event is scheduled for August 27th. Members and guests are asked to RSVP for an accurate head count for food. Members express no concerns to send invitations to local legislators.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourns at 8:30PM, by motion of O'Neill/Manner\.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.