



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, November 13, 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	V
Vice-Chair	Jeffrey Miller	V	Margo Ghia	V
Secretary / Treasurer	Vacant		Jason Rasmussen	V
Most recent past CRJC President	Jennifer Griffin	V		

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

Additional In Person attendance: Olivia Uyizeye, Staff Consultant.

No Quorum.

NOTES

2:00 PM Convene

President Cooley convenes the meeting at 2:07 PM.

1. Minutes Review (Oct 2023 Minutes)

Cooley, Item 2 in financial has a typo "withno". A decision on the minutes is postponed to a future meeting date with a quorum.

2. September Financials

Rasmussen reports that the September financials looked OK. He reports a conversation with UVLSRPC in regard to the Vermont billing which appeared behind. The billing is on track to be paid out at the end of October as that is based on the completion of tasks.

Both states have shown recent glitches on timely payment. Both are reported to be up to date and that the issue is not exclusive to CRJC but rather state staff with a growing list of grants to maintain.

3. Budget and Workplan FY2024 Tracking Update

Uyizeye reviews a status report of the current budget spent as it relates to the first quarter of the fiscal year. This will be updated for the Full Commissions in January to reflect through



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Quarter 2. Rasmussen asks about the grant writing task being at 100%. Uyizeye notes this is correct and relates to the submitted proposal for the NHCF unrestricted grant.

4. Continuing Assessment Plan

2- Staffing

Rasmussen notes that he is slightly behind schedule on a draft RFP, however expects it to be ready for approval at the January Full Commissions meeting.

3- Deliverables

Caduto notes that CRJC is on track from the last review.

4- LRS Actions

Uyizeye reminds the group that a member training is being planned this winter that the Team will review content for.

5- Recruit/Retain

Uyizeye notes that Miller has connected to a potential new commissioner Greg Castell in Plainfield, who she also spoke to. Castell indicated he would join the January meeting. Griffin indicates she is also working on a new recruit.

6- Leadership

Cooley expects to work on this for the Jan meeting.

7- Bi-State Meetings

Rasmussen and Caduto report two in process, one focused on the Farm bill in April and another focused on the intersection of housing development and ecosystem resilience.

11- Partnerships

Uyizeye reports the team will be meeting in December.

5. January Full Commissions agenda

The EC agrees that if road conditions are unsafe for the January meeting, the EC will be responsible to hold a special meeting to move forward any necessary decisions. Miller and Griffin also agree to work to meet in person as they are close in proximity and are sufficient number to meet a quorum under NH's new rules.

Additional agenda items to include were the RFP approval and a letter of support on the Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act.

6. Tactical Basin Plans

Caduto reports that 2024 will see three Vermont tactical basin plans under renewal - the Deerfield, White River and Passumpsic. This will largely be a topic for the local river subcommittees with a kick-off meeting already taken place for the Deerfield.



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Uyizeye asks if any additional coordination among groups is needed. Caduto suggests that she be notified if any topic rise to the top that has riverwide applicability.

7. Updates & other business

a. Hydro-relicensing

Griffin reports that Great River Hydro received a letter of deficiency and additional information request for the Bellows Falls. There was missing information on exhibits and detailed information requested for mineral flow unit to be installed. A response is required in a 90-day period, or Jan 8. Additional information was also requested to First Light with a 30-day time frame. Griffin says it is likely to the Request for Environmental Impact Analysis to be issued in the first quarter of 2024 by FERC.

b. Connecticut River watershed partnership act

Members agree for the drafted letter of support to be postponed to December. Ghia agrees to write the first draft.

c. Legislator Engagement

Caduto notes that some of this will occur through the bi-state meetings.

d. Long Island Sound Futures Fund

Caduto notes project will be kicked off on Friday with the Steering Committee.

e. CRJC Banner

Caduto recommends a 2' by 6' CRJC banner. Uyizeye shares a draft version.

The following changes are recommended:

“Giving voice to New England’s great river
in New Hampshire and Vermont

The Riverwide Commissions

And

The Local River Subcommittees of Headwaters, Riverbend, Upper Valley, Mount Ascutney, and
Wantastiquet

Dedicated to helping preserve
the visual, ecological, and working landscape
of the Connecticut River Valley
while encouraging and maintaining
economic viability throughout”

Remove white border around images, Be mindful of size of text, and Review representation
from pictures on whether it is sufficiently inclusive.

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f. Website

Uyizeye notes that the ability to purchase books through CRJC has been removed and that a PDF version of “Where the great river rises” was not found. Caduto notes that the publisher should be able to send CRJC the book in a format that can be made digital. Griffin notes it is now under the University of Chicago Press publisher. Uyizeye will see about tracking this down.

g. Other Business

Rasmussen notes there is likely to be an upcoming scenic byway grant that could provide funding possibilities for the Connecticut River Byways, such as rebuilding the website. The possibility has been discussed in Vermont along with other options. It is unclear who would apply to this.

2:50 PM Adjourn

The meeting is adjourned.

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.