

**Upper Valley Subcommittee
Minutes**

Monday, November 11, 2023 – 6:00 PM Meeting
Hybrid Meeting - Latham Library, Downstairs, 16 Library Rd, Thetford, VT

Attendance

NH Members:	Attendance
Alice Creagh, Hanover	X
Vacancy, Hanover	
Eric Agterberg, Lebanon	X
Ruth Bleyler, Lebanon	X
Bill Malcolm, Lyme	P
Vacancy, Lyme	
Ted Cooley, Orford	P
Carl Schmidt, Orford	X
Vacancy, Piermont	
Vacancy, Piermont	

VT Members:	Attendance
Ted Unkles, Bradford	X
Vacancy, Bradford	
Ben Dana, Fairlee	P
Peter Berger, Fairlee	X
David Barrell, Hartford	X
Lynn Bohi, Hartford	V*
Bill Bridge, Thetford	P
Linda Matteson, Thetford	P
Vacancy, Norwich	
Vacancy, Norwich	

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

Partners Present: Kate Buckman (CRC); Kathy Urffer (CRC)

Partners Online: Majestic Terhune (Staff, CRJC)

**Bohi joined virtually at 6:20 p.m.*

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Malcolm started the meeting at 6:07 p.m. Members and partners present introduced themselves.

2. Meeting Minutes from September 18, 2023

Malcolm opened the September minutes for review. Cooley motioned to approve the minutes with no changes. Matteson seconded. All voted in favor.

3. FERC Relicensing Update

Buckman and Urffer provided a brief overview of the Connecticut River Conservancy, their roles within it, and the history of the FERC relicensing process.

Malcolm inquired after a further budget breakdown and return on investment for Great River Hydro. based on specific dams/projects. Buckman and Urffer clarified that that reporting currently does not exist, although it is possible to do so. Urffer added that an instructor from U. Mass. Amherst had volunteered to conduct an overview of the organization’s economics, finding that most revenue comes from capacity, reserve, and REC credits rather than generation.

Malcolm asked Cooley about the broader CRJC’s plans on submitting comments. Cooley stated that the sense is that the Commissioners will be looking for input from the Local River Subcommittees, deferring to local knowledge. Commissioners (including himself) have been attending the LRS meetings to better understand and report back on LRS viewpoints.

Buckman and Urffer showed the project area maps filed with the application and noted that they will be sharing maps with the towns. They clarified that the maps are filed with FERC and not the towns.

Buckman and Urffer will share links to pertinent application documents either directly to the LRS or via Terhune.

Malcolm expressed concern over bandwidth to compile and submit comments. Group agreed that a draft letter of support/further outlines for submissions could be helpful.

Urffer iterated that FERC is interested in hearing from communities on their wants and concerns, even if comments are more general. CRC has and will be submitting technical feedback.

CRC will provide a template for feedback and recommended points, as well as being available to help offer considerations for specific towns. Buckman and Urffer can review comments and make recommendations, provide data and context for past years, and speak to selectboards.

Group agreed to return to the topic during the next meeting with a clearer process on how to proceed.

Buckman stated that the earliest date for the comment period would be in February.

Matteson expressed appreciation for the presentation and the context, technical details, and recommendations it provided.

4. Response to Upper Merrimack River LAC on Special Permit #23-328

Malcolm provided an overview of the response to Upper Merrimack River LAC on earlier reviewed permit.

Cooley

Ted Cooley, as long as licensed contractor applying herbicide, it makes sense; once state is happy with state licensure, that makes sense; should be part of SOP

5. Review Standard Operating Procedure

This item was tabled for the next meeting. Malcolm to draft material ahead of next meeting.

Cooley noted that, in light of item four, drafting a standing point on applications that have a licensed contractor reviewed by the State should be part of the SOP.

6. Other Business

Bohi provided an updated email address.

Terhune mentioned MLK Day holiday. Group decided to push the meeting one week back.

7. Adjourn

Cooley motioned to adjourn. Bohi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is January 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Majestic Terhune.