



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, October 16, 2023 - 2 PM

Join Virtually via Zoom

Join In Person Community Room at Kilton Library, 80 Main Street, West Lebanon, NH

### 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	P	Marie Caduto	P
Vice-Chair	Jeffrey Miller	P	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.

### MINUTES

#### **2:00 PM Convene**

President Cooley convenes the meeting at 2 PM.

#### **1. Minutes Review (August 2023 Notes, Feb 2023 Minutes)**

The minutes from the February 2023 are opened with discussion.

The minutes are passed without edits by Miller/Rasmussen with one abstention from Ghia.

#### **2. July Financials**

Rasumussen reports that the August financials were reviewed with no concerns raised.

Commissioners agree to request for a quarterly budget update in accordance with CRJC deliverables at the November EC meeting.

#### **3. Review of Public meeting law & CRJC decisions**

Uyizeye reports that Governor Chris Sununu has signed into law HB308, which will change quorum rules to for local river advisory committees, which include the CRJC. The new quorum rules allow a third of membership to be present in person rather than the prior half.

Cooley asks if there are any additional requirements to be aware of. Uyizeye notes that the statute does continue policies in effect during COVID for remote participation, as stated by HB308 "Each member participating remotely shall identify the persons present in the location



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from which the member is participating. All votes taken during such a meeting shall be by roll call vote.”

#### **4. Continuing Assessment Plan**

##### **2- Staffing**

Rasmussen reports on the team's work for the request for proposals. Ghia and Rasmussen expect to present a final RFP for distribution at the January FC meeting, to be sent out publicly in February and final decision made by April to allow for sufficient time in advance of the end of fiscal year 2024.

##### **5- Recruit/Retain**

- Commissioners reflect that while some of the new Commissioners appeared to understand CRJC, there were some basic questions asked that indicated their initial onboarding was in some areas insufficient.
- Miller reports that a Plainfield Water district commissioner is interested in participating.
- Caduto will be following up with Hannah Dallas to further support her orientation.
- Griffin will be following up with her GRH replacement, Don Devanney.
- Commissioners discuss a few other potential recruits including Robert Stickney in the Upper Meadows Area of Rockingham, a farmer.
- Uyizeye will follow up with all regarding appointment this fall and supporting general orientation.

##### **7- Bi-State Meetings**

- Caduto and Rasmussen share a brief update on the bi-state meetings planned. A timeline for the meetings and topics for discussion has been determined. The details and in-depth planning will be further developed in November/December.

#### **5. Social Event Recap**

Commissioners discuss the social event with the following takeaways:

- Rain was challenging.
- Good conversation and speakers.
- Good location
- Content would have benefited from more structure. Commissioners acknowledged Caduto's impromptu facilitation as incredibly beneficial for a small group.
- Attendance included a legislator, a few partner organizations, and a brief presentation by Joanna Throwe on the Long Island Sound Futures Fund.

Commissioners agreed to the following for 2024. Continue the single social event model. Schedule the event earlier in September, not on a holiday, but still on the weekend. Include additional structure but maintain some room for casual conversation.



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## **6. Full Commissions Agenda**

In addition to the normal content, Commissioners discussed inviting a speaker to share an update on the Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act.

## **7. Updates & other business**

### **a. Hydro-relicensing**

No update.

### **b. Connecticut River watershed partnership act**

Ghia asks whether a letter of support is still desirable. Commissioners agree that drafting and submitting a letter of support is in CRJC's best interest. Caduto agrees to share content and general information about the legislation with Ghia.

### **c. Long Island Sound Futures Fund**

The agriculture project is now in full swing with QAPP and contract approved. Uyizeye and Caduto have both received invitations as part of the steering committee.

### **d. CRJC Banner**

Caduto recommends that CRJC purchase a new banner. Commissioners agree with this idea as a low-cost materials that is beneficial for outreach activities. Uyizeye will share the five local river subcommittee logos for inclusion.

### **e. Where the Great River Rises**

Caduto notes that the book "Where the Great River Rises" is on the website, but CRJC no longer has materials to sell. No Commissioner suggests reprinting this book currently and rather agrees to remove the purchase option from the website. Uyizeye will check on whether a digital version could be made available through the website.

### **f. Watershed Plans**

Caduto spoke with Adair Mulligan at the CRJC social about the status of CRJC's management plans (corridor, recreation, and water resources), all of which are now 10-30 years old. Commissioners discuss the extent and staffing needed for this update. Uyizeye notes that this has also come up with a couple of the local river subcommittees, with multiple members having participated in current management plans.

Commissioners agree to determine the goals of an update and funding needed to accomplish those goals. This would allow CRJC to make this a higher priority in the next fiscal year.

## **4:00 PM      Adjourn**

The meeting is adjourned.

*Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.*