



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, January 22, 2024 - 2 PM

Hybrid Meeting – Mount Ascutney Regional Commission, Ascutney, VT

ATTENDANCE

NH CRVRC COMMISSIONERS			VT CRWAC COMMISSIONERS		
NCC	OPEN		Sec. Nat. Resources	Marie Caduto	P
UVLSRPC	Ted Cooley	V	NVDA	Beth Torpey	X
SWRPC	Jeffrey Miller	P	WRC	Margo Ghia	V
CRC	Kate Buckman	X	MARC	Jason Rasmussen	P
CRFCC	OPEN		TRORC	Pete Fellows	V
Hydro-Electric	Jen Griffin	X	RPC#5	OPEN	
Conservation	OPEN		At Large	Beth Kennett	X
Tourism	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	
Agricultural	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	
Forest Products	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	
At Large	Jim McClammer	P	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:

Don Devaney, Great River Hydro, Director of Asset Management

Hannah Dallas, Southern Windsor County Forester

(Pending Commissioner appointment for CRWAC At Large forestry stakeholder).

Greg Castell, Plainfield NH (Interested CRVRC At Large commissioner)

Virtual:

Erin De Vries, Vermont River Conservancy, Co-Executive Director and Conservation Director

(Pending Commissioner appointment for CRWAC At Large conservation stakeholder).

Olivia Uyizeye, Staff Consultant.

AGENDA

2:00 PM Convene

1. Welcome

President Cooley starts the meeting at 2:05pm. Commissioners and guests in attendance introduce themselves.

2. Adopt/Review Minutes of September

Cooley opens the September meeting minutes for review. No edits.

By motion of Caduto/Rasmussen, the minutes are approved. The motion passes unanimously.



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3. Financial Report

Rasmussen reviews the notes on the December financials. Spending looks on target. No concerns are raised.

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

4. Continuing Assessment Plan or "CAP"

a. 1- Funding

Uyizeye reports that the Vermont contract for \$35,000 starting November 2023 is active. Also, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation application for \$20,000 was not received, while a donor directed donation of \$3,000 was received in December 2023.

b. 2- Staffing

Rasmussen reports on work for the request for proposals worked on with Ghia. Timeline typically was to renew contract every five years however this had been postponed due to organizational strategic planning efforts. Rasmussen suggests distribution reasonably soon and have someone selected by May or sooner. Discussion follows:

- Caduto notes on A3 that meetings are covered, "and other meetings as needed"
- State need for a year-end financial report
- Timeline, proposals due May 10, consideration to move up to April in order to allow enough time to review and time for a change over of documents before the start of the next contract with a consultant. The shift to April is agreed upon.
- Cooley asks if more than one bid is needed. Fellows notes it is a simple bid, which our current funding falls under, then one is acceptable for that process

By motion of Caduto/Miller, the Request for Proposals is approved. The motion passes unanimously.

c. 3- Deliverables

Uyizeye notes the organization is on track for contractual deliverables.

d. 4- Local River Subcommittee Actions

Uyizeye notes work on the CRJC training event this Feb 6 and encourages Commissioner to attend as well. De Vries, asks which Commissioner attends different meetings? Cooley notes zoom access. Cooley, encourages all to attend LRS meetings as Commissioners. Cooley typically at Upper Valley. Ghia attends Wantastiquet, which Caduto also occasionally attends. Dallas visited Mount Ascutney recently, which Rasmussen also visits occasionally and Caduto regularly.

e. 5- Recruit/Retain

Cooley looking in Orford and Fairlee. Caduto have requests in to colleagues up North.

f. 6- Leadership

Cooley presents on the topic of EC turn over. VP usually steps up to President. Cooley will be reaching out to member to discuss leadership.



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g. 7- Bi-State Meetings

Rasmussen and Caduto report for the team that the bi-state meetings are in development. The focus is primarily on discussions on the topics of water quality, agriculture, and climate migration. Agricultural meeting on April 15, working to bring in commissioners and the Vermont legislative team active on the farm bill. Second in May on Climate Migration, land use planning approaches on where different uses go so that people have somewhere to live while also not fragmenting the land or putting folks in unsafe locations. Water quality is waiting for the data that we must be assess and summarize.

DeVries shared details on the VT bill S213 bill on wetlands, river corridors, reconnecting areas. DeVries suggests what that bill would look like if it was signed could be an interesting topic for the land use event.

h. 8- Communications

Fellows reports from the meeting this morning. The team spoke about website and how to reach people. Generally, website is in pretty good shape. Did talk more about how to contact people and the best way to do that – value added email list through constant contact and improving that, such as targeting conservation commissions. Still need to discuss more about in person materials and outreach to legislators.

i. 9- Watershed Speaker

Larry Coffin, local historian, at March meeting about flooding on the Connecticut River.

j. 10- Strategic Plan

Uyizeye notes that she is working with Griffin on evaluating our current status in completing stated goal in the strategic plan, including a recommendation on how best to use that framework in the future.

k. 11- Partnerships

Uyizeye summarizes survey and partner outreach to build on past outreach. The survey will be through email and is expected to last the month of February. Commissioners agree it looks good, no comment for change.

5. Legislatures Communication

Caduto suggests submitting a letter to legislators of riverfront Towns, like that done in 2022 in order to keep CRJC in people's minds.

By motion of Rasmussen/Miller, the yearly distribution of communications outlined in the workplan (e.g., annual reports, press release on received funding) is approved. The motion passes unanimously.



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6. Long Island Sound Futures Fund

Uyizeye indicates that subcontracts for CRJC on both the agriculture and stormwater LISFF projects are underway and expect to go before the CRJC Executive Committee in February. Stipends for commissioners and members interested to engaged on the project are available.

Caduto asks for recommendations on who to contact for a sub agreement with Dartmouth College on the project.

7. Updates and Other Business

a. Reprint – Where the Great River Rises

CRJC received an inquiry to reprint this book. Unfortunately, it would not be possible under the maximum number CRJC could request. Commissioners ask about a digital file, which Adair Mulligan may also have a copy. Uyizeye will follow up with both parties.

b. Banner Approval, 6x2ft

Commissioners review the banner presented. Dallas suggests purchasing from DoLittles in Claremont.

By motion of Rasmussen/McClammer, the purchase of the banner up to \$200 from the discretionary fund is approved. The motion passes unanimously.

c. Herricks Cove Festival May 5

Caduto invited CRJC to host a table at the upcoming festival. Miller agrees to help staff the table during the event. Dallas will make a big map where visitors can place pins, which also can help to identify those in Towns without membership. Caduto offers to print on their plotter.

d. CRJC Annual Reports

Uyizeye reports that these are out and distributed.

e. Local River Subcommittee Report

Uyizeye provides summarizes the quarterly report including the water quality monitoring program and most recent meetings. The riverwide speaker series event planning is well underway and planned for this February and March.

f. Hydro-relicensing

McClammer notes there are items still missing and the process is again delayed.

Uyizeye reads a message from Jen Griffin: “we filed a request for an extension of time to submit responses to FERC’s Additional Information Request and Deficiencies associated with our supplemental filing for the Bellows Falls minimum flow unit. We requested an extension of time to the end of this month, 1/31/24.”



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g. Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act

No updates. Request an update from staff.

h. Other Business

McClammer discusses the Granite State Landfill in Dalton with a pending application for a Casella Solid Waste Landfill. There will be a shoreland application among many other applications.

McClammer encourages support of the Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee comments. Multiple items in NH legislature related to this landfill. Timeline on wetlands and site specific will need to be made in the next 50-60 days.

Caduto suggests NH part of the CRVRC lead the response on the matter. Cooley offers to be the contact to receive more information.

4:00 PM Adjourn

Cooley thanks everyone for attending.

By motion of Miller/Caduto the meeting is adjourned. The motion passes unanimously.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.