



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, February 26, 2024 - 2 PM

Join Virtually via Zoom

Join In Person Tutorial 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	P
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: Jim McClammer (Commissioner); Sharon Francis (Charlestown); John Tuthill (Acworth).

Additional Virtual attendance: Olivia Uyizeye, Staff Consultant.

### MINUTES

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

President Cooley convenes the meeting at 2 PM.

#### **1. Minutes Review (November 2023 Notes, October 2023 Minutes)**

The minutes from October 2023 are opened with discussion.

The minutes are passed without edits by Miller/Caduto, the vote passes unanimously.

#### **2. Financials**

Rasmussen reports that the January financials were reviewed with no concerns raised.

Commissioners agree to request for a third quarter budget update.

#### **3. Continuing Assessment Plan**

##### **1 – Funding, LISFF Contracts**

Uyizeye reports on two subcontracts for Long Island Sound Futures Fund grants – stormwater and agriculture. The agriculture subagreement amounts to \$6,400 for November 2023 through May 2024 regarding work on the agricultural producer survey outreach. The stormwater subagreement amounts to \$15,000 for March 2024 through December 2025.



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A corresponding amendment and budget for CRJC was discussed showing the inclusion of these two subagreements, and the amendment provision to bill to these subagreements by UVLSRPC.

On the stormwater subagreement, it is agreed to limit scope to Vermont and bi-state coordination in order to avoid and conflict with UVLSRPC work on the project in different capacities.

The subagreements and amendment are accepted with the scope edit on the stormwater contract by Caduto/Miller, the motion passes unanimously.

## **2- Staffing, Request for Proposals**

Rasmussen reports on the team's work for the request for proposals. Ghia and Rasmussen would like final edits confirmed today so it is on track for the fiscal year schedule. Proposals due by April 12 with Rasmussen as the contact. Rasmussen solicits input on where to post the RfP.

The following were mentioned:

- CRJC website
- VT planning listserv
- NH planning listserv
- Academic institutions
- CRC
- NH Non Profit Consultants
- Newspapers
- Members and Commissioners

The Request for Proposal as drafted is accepted by Caduto/Ghia, and the motion passes unanimously.

## **4. Updates & other business**

### **a. Dalton Landfill**

McClammer explains that the proposed Dalton landfill (44.34406934969152, -71.68982673523941) is in the watershed of the Connecticut River and asks that the CRJC comment on the different permits. There are a limited number of locations that this type of facility can be located with 200 acres. McClammer explains that he was hired by the Town of Dalton to review the applications for this potential development. There will be significant impacts, including shoreland permit requirements to the Ammonoosuc River. There will also be permits for wetland, alteration of terrain, landfill, and yet to be submitted shoreland permit.

Tuthill explains that the Dalton landfill is the first time he's seen the legislature grapple with these issues. It is a major concern where NH has an opportunity to do a better job. NH allows the acceptance of out of state solid waste. It is possible a federal solid waste solution would be needed, or desirable. The Dalton location is seen as the least environmentally damaging of all the potential sites.

Commissioners agree to craft comments independent of McClammer's submission to avoid any perceived conflict of interest. Commissioners express interest in the local river subcommittee



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to also comment and to understand their position. Uyizeye will collect the comments and compile in advance of the Full Commissions meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **b. Hydro-relicensing**

Five dams, three of Great River Hydro and two of First Light have been approved by FERC in the relicensing process to be Ready for Environmental Analysis and Soliciting Comments. Comments due by April 22<sup>nd</sup> according to the 60 day window, however the notice only indicates April 2024.

Caduto suggests building on the previous letter of comment, especially the most recent one from the Joint Commissions in 2017.

Francis explains the dams as the most significant impact and commitment of the public for the use of the Connecticut River. Francis explains that the dam use is a dominant use of the River. Many items will change over the years including the population, land use, and climate. Francis speaks to her experience setting up the Mitigation and Enhancement Fund for the Fifteen Miles Falls dam, for other uses on the River. Francis asks that CRJC consider the condition of a lifetime of license for a similar grant fund with broad enough categories that will provide for the needs of the other uses on the River.

McClammer notes that FERC is looking for recommendations for conditions on the license. He argues that CRJC should be active in drafting and administering funds on the Connecticut River.

Uyizeye suggests a possible timeline to finalize comments by the deadline. Griffin reminds the group that a special meeting of the Executive Committee could be called after the full commissions meeting in March if needed. Commissioners also discuss the local river subcommittee comment schedule.

#### **4:01 PM      Adjourn**

The meeting is adjourned by motion of Miller/Ghia. The motion passes unanimously.

*Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.*