



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 21, 2024 - 2 PM

Join In Person (Kilton Library) or 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 (Marie Caduto), Vice President (Ted Cooley), Secretary (Jeffrey Miller), and Treasurer (Jason Rasmussen).

| Officer | NH CRVRC | | VT CRWAC | |
|-----------------------|----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Chair | Ted Cooley | V | Marie Caduto | P |
| Vice-Chair | Jeffrey Miller | P | Margo Ghia | V |
| Secretary / Treasurer | Greg Castell | P | Jason Rasmussen | P |

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

Additional Virtual Attendance: Olivia Uyizeye, Staff Consultant.

Additional In-Person Attendance: Renee Theall, Staff Consultant.

MINUTES

2:00 PM Convene

President Caduto convenes the meeting at 2 PM.

1. Minutes Review (May 20, 2024 Minutes)

Uyizeye makes a notes on previous discussion of the may minutes from the August meeting which stated "the minutes from May 20, 2024 are reviewed with no edits or concerns raised."

Cooley makes a motion to approve the minutes as written from May 2024, Ghia seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

2. Financials

Rasmussen reviews the most recent financial report, noting the contract is currently on track.

Caduto notes that the VT contract requires that the CRJC conducts a yearly compilation report. Budgeted for \$2,500 but the quoted cost is \$3,800. The VT contract allocates \$6,000 to this task along with the annual report. Uyizeye notes the lack of correct reflect in the budget due to outdated numbers.

Miller makes a motion approves the increase in budget for the compilation report, Ghia seconds. The motion passes unanimously.



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3. VT public meeting law

Ghia and Rasmussen explain that the Vermont Public meeting law, recently changed, will need to be followed for CRJC meetings where budgetary decisions are decided. Generally, this is limited to Full Commissions and Executive Committee meetings. The law requires that these meetings be recorded and be made public available for a month after that meeting's minutes have been approved. For CRJC, this means the recording will need to be made available on the CRJC YouTube channel for roughly one year. It is agreed that the Finance CAP team does not need to meet because it is advisory, and no decisions are made then.

4. Continuing Assessment Plan

a. 1- Funding and Deliverables

Caduto notes that the Vermont contract for 2025 has been signed and is ready to go.

b. 2- Membership

Caduto shares link to commissioner membership summary document, asking the EC to review. Caduto also explains that the bylaws outline three standing committees. The EC will then need to re-evaluate how these are structured, especially in consideration of the continuing assessment plan teams.

c. 3- Leadership and Staffing

Uyizeye and Rasmussen explain that a summary of CRJC activities, meant for CRJC officers and staff, has been compiled, reviewed, and is ready for viewing.

d. 4- CRJC – LRS Relationship

It is noted that Commissioner attendance at LRS meetings is of high importance, thus strategies to identify Commissioner attendance and remind of upcoming meetings through Commissioner communications was discussed. Further, Commissioners agree to invite a local river subcommittee to Full Commissions (not including the annual meeting) meetings to make a short presentation and participate in discussion. It is agreed to invite Headwaters to join the next meeting virtually.

e. 5- Dialogue

Caduto reports that a joint agricultural bi-state discussion in coordination with the Connecticut River Watershed Farmers Alliance is in process. Given the shared nature of the event planning, it is likely a second bi-state discussion will be within budget, however, it is recommended that this be a virtual event.

Officers express strong interest in a water quality presentation and discussion as part of the riverwide speaker series or a bi-state discussion event.

f. 6- CAP & Communications Plan



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Ghia describes that the teams is revisiting the mission statement by reviewing various documents of what describes where we are. The team will have a discussion on trying to condense it that could then be presented to the full commissions.

5. Updates & other business

g. Hydro-relicensing

No update at this time.

h. CRWPA

No update at this time.

i. Grants: NHDES 604(b); America the Beautiful

A decision on the submitted letter of interest is expected this October. If this application does not go through, the group can consider again the America the Beautiful grant. It is agreed to not take on more than one grant at a time.

j. Other Business

Caduto reviewed bylaws. Asks if CRJC needs to review to integrate the appropriate updates from the public meeting law. Cooley asks if this might be a policy and not a bylaw change, which is typically easier to change. Need to differentiate between the Commissioners and LRS members in the organizational mission statement. This could be part of any review of bylaws.

Caduto notes that the annual report is complete and needs to get that to the legislatures. After the November election. Request an updated list from CRC. Look to send out in December.

A water quality monitoring update was requested for the next meeting.

Rasmussen, federal scenic byway grant. Some preliminary talk with VT Agency for transportation and VT RPCs to update the website. There is a 20% local match. Need to work with a state organization, transportation or recreation department.

Review of upcoming local river subcommittee meetings. It is confirmed that castell will attend Riverbend, Cooley for the Upper Valley, and Miller for Mount Ascutney and Wantastiquet. They will be added to the corresponding meeting lists.

It is decided to move the Nov 4 meeting to Dec 2, virtual meeting.

2:57 PM Adjourn

Cooley makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ghia seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.