



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, May 20, 2024 - 2 PM

Join Virtually via Zoom

Join In Person Conference 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	X		

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

Additional Virtual attendance: Olivia Uyizeye, Staff Consultant. Jim McClammer, NH At-Large Commissioner from Charlestown NH.

MINUTES

2:00 PM Convene

President Cooley convenes the meeting at 2 PM.

1. Minutes Review (May 6, 2024 Minutes)

The minutes from May 6, 2024 are opened with discussion.

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

2. Financials (April 2024)

Rasmussen discusses the April financials, indicating no concerns and.

The financials are passed without comment by Rasmussen/Caduto, the vote passes unanimously.

3. Continuing Assessment Plan

a. 2- Staffing, Request for Proposals (RFP)

Rasmussen reports that only one proposal from UVLSRPC was received in response to CRJC's RfP. Rasmussen does not notice any concerns with the application that would warrant not moving forward with a contract with the consultant.

Caduto inquires to Uyizeye on a few items in the cost proposal. Specifically, Caduto asks about budget for an annual social event, water quality monitoring, and grant writing. Uyizeye



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responds that the cost proposal had to be cut in comparison to the previous year because of an increase in hourly rate from UVLSRPC that corresponds with the organizations non-profit rate. Uyizeye will revisit the proposal to see what room there is to add these items back into the budget for FY 2025.

The drafted UVLSRPC cost proposal is approved to be shared with the full commissions by Caduto/Ghia, the vote passes unanimously.

b. 6- Leadership

Caduto has requested approval from leadership at VT DEC to serve as the CRJC president in the coming fiscal year. If not approved, Cooley indicates that he will be reaching out to Vermont Commissions for alternative leadership options.

c. 7- Bi-State Meetings

Uyizeye reminds the EC that the bi-state Land Use and Resilience event will be taking place this Wednesday, May 22nd.

d. 10- Strategic Plan

Uyizeye reports that a draft of an FY 2025 continuing assessment plan will be ready for the Full Commissions meeting on June 10. The plan will have fewer teams to reduce the number of meetings for both Commissioners and staff.

4. FERC intervenor status

McClammer encourages the Executive Committee to move forward with intervenor status. Caduto does not see any down side, and rather intervenor status gives CRJC options. If there is a movement forward towards litigation, it provides the option to move forward to litigation, but that does not have to be an avenue CRJC takes. Litigation would require legal expertise. Miller asks if it would be up to the board whether CRJC would participate in any litigation that takes place. Response is yes that would be a board decision. Rasmussen asks if we expect there to be any significant level of staff efforts. McClammer offers to contribute his time if needed. Miller questions whether this is a role that CRJC should be taking, is this part of the CRJC scope. Caduto reiterates that this keeps our options open. If something is done in the license that we feel strongly about, than this gives us the option to say something.

The intervenor status application for the FERC applications on the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon dams is approved by Rasmussen/Miller. The motion passes unanimously.

5. LRS Fairlee Nomination

Uyizeye reports that a nomination form has been received for a new member from Fairlee Vermont named Arlene Guest.

The nomination of Arlene Guest to the Upper Valley local river subcommittee is approved by Caduto/Ghia. The motion passes unanimously.



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6. June Full Commissions Agenda

Uyizeye provides a brief overview of the annual meeting agenda including officer elections, Fiscal year 2025 staffing contract and organizational budget, and continuing assessment plan. Cooley will work with CRJC staff to finalize the annual meeting agenda.

7. Updates & other business

a. Hydro-relicensing

McClammer reports that Great River Hydro has requested water quality certification, a state process. These have to be completed within one year of submission. Cooley asks if there is any concern that the federal government would overrule the state's preferred choice. McClammer notes that this is the only task for the states based on their water quality requirements, thus it is unlikely to see the federal government get involved. Rasmussen asks if this is the 401-certification? Answer is yes.

b. Other Business

Dalton Landfill

McClammer recommends that CRJC engage in the process around the Dalton Landfill in New Hampshire. The period for comment on the wetlands application has been extended for 2 months. The permit is within the vicinity of the Ammonoosuc LAC, not the Connecticut River LAC, however, it is the Connecticut River watershed. At least in a cursory manner, the CRJC has to indicate its concerns. Is there someone who can take this up? McClammer cannot as it would be a conflict of interest. McClammer adds that this is the most complex project in the history of NH. Miller asks if the regional planning commission in the vicinity could give an update. McClammer lists several agencies that are involved in this and suggests we need a speaker on the topic (suggested Conservation Law Foundation, Department of Forests). Rasmussen notes that Rick Walling may be able to share his perspective, and asks whether North Country Council has a position on the project. Commissioners agree that given its complexity, it is unclear where it would be appropriate for CRJC to engage. Cooley and CRJC staff will discuss whether it can fit into the June meeting, and if not it would have to be the September meeting.

America the Beautiful grant

Caduto shares a grant that includes planning funds. Caduto asks members to consider what planning activities CRJC might prioritize to seek additional funding. America the Beautiful grant - <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/america-beautiful-challenge/americas-ecosystem-restoration-initiative-america-beautiful-challenge-2024-request-proposals>

2:50 PM Adjourn

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

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.