



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, September 14th, 2024 - 2 PM

Hybrid Meeting – Damren Room, Lebanon Public Library, Lebanon, NH

### ATTENDANCE

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

Sharon Francis (Guest, Town of Charlestown)  
 Ian Garland, Staff Consultant  
 Renee Theall, Staff Consultant

### AGENDA

**2:00 PM Convene**

#### 1. Welcome

President Caduto starts the meeting at 2:04 pm. Commissioners and guests in attendance introduce themselves.

#### 2. Dalton Landfill Presentation and Discussion:

Walling started his presentation by stating that the LAC has been involved on this property since 2008 when it was set to be a racetrack. Then he requested DES to let the LAC submit comments on permit applications, but they never did until a shoreland application for the driveway.

2021 was when the first permits for Granite State landfill in Dalton occurred. The LAC commented on the applications for Wetlands and the Alteration of terrain (solid waste landfill application) All opposed to the siting at that location. The applications were withdrawn in 2022 and came back in 2023. LAC has commented on wetlands permit and alteration of land permit, clean water 404 permit, and Air permit.



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The Shoreland permit was granted Dalton Conservation Commission has appealed that permit being granted. They plan to fill 10 acres of wetland. The Solid Waste Landfill permit requires that any site must be 200 feet downhill and 100 feet uphill from any wetland. They reconfigured the design to make the footprint smaller than the previous one. The LAC commented that they should reconsider other potential sites based on the new footprint estimation.

Caduto asked how close to the Connecticut this site is.

McClammer stated that it's not approximate but it's not within a quarter mile of the Connecticut. It's his opinion that the CRJC has a mission to provide comments on anything that has the potential to impact the watershed. This project is one of the most major that we have seen in the history of the state and probably New England in general. His opinion is that this is an important project that would potentially disturb 140 acres of land and 25.5 acres of impervious surfaces, destroy 11.5 acres of wetland and have adverse impacts on the river in the area.

Caduto asked if it would help folks to see a map of Dalton. Garland pulled up a map and shared it with the group.

Walling stated that Massachusetts, Vermont, and Maine do not allow out of state garbage, but New Hampshire does.

Miller asked if there is any increased truck traffic. Rick said that he didn't have the numbers but stated that there was increased truck traffic. Miller also asked if there is any legislature for making this permissible or not. Rick stated that there was a law to bring the law more in line with recommendations, but it did not get passed.

McClammer stated that there is a big political aspect to the landfill. Depends on who is in power because some will support, and some won't.

Caduto asked if there is a recommendation for the board or a request.

Walling requested that the CRJC be involved in this process. LAC's opinion is that it is a very harmful project.

Rasmussen stated that this is a massive project with a lot of information that goes along with it. Just a reminder that the CRJC has relatively limited capacity.

***Miller motioned to have the CRJC to be involved in the review and comment of the development of this project. Greg seconded. No opposition, McClammer abstained. The motion carried.***

Walling stated that even if a deadline has passed, you can still comment, it just can't be sent back.

Castell stated that roughly half of the trash in NH comes from out of state, around 900,000 tons a year, data from 2020.

Walling asked where he could send the information to. Garland stated that he can send it to him and that he will pass it on to the relevant parties.

### **3. LRS Updates and Nominations**



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Garland stated that the Wantastiquet expressed interest in having members of the executive committee being more active in the local subcommittee groups more often.

Ghia mentioned that it's helpful to have more communication between the commissioners and the LRS groups even if it's just providing a few updates from the board. The Wantastiquet group expressed a disconnect from the board.

Caduto asked if the communications group had met yet.

Ghia said that the meeting is going to occur on Wednesday. Caduto asked if communication between commissioners and LRS's can be added to the agenda.

Walling stated that years ago there would be a commissioner at each LRS subcommittee meeting

Caduto asked if it would be helpful to have a schedule for commissioners so they can schedule themselves for LRS meetings. She asked if you would be more inclined to attend if it was on your calendar?

Miller asked if the LRS schedules can be included at the bottom of the meeting minutes where the next meeting date is posted for ease of figuring out when they are. Garland said that he would include them.

Garland stated that the Mount Ascutney group mentioned wanting to get more towns represented within their subcommittee and have more activity in general.

Caduto stated that there were 4 new LRS members to vote in at the meeting. Jude Stull (Lebanon), Watt Alexander (Norwich), Hayden Smith, and Jeffrey Bryan (Rockingham).

***Miller moved to vote all new members in with one vote, Castell seconded. The vote passed unanimously.***

Purrington asked, because he is not officially a member and hasn't been accepted by the governor, if he is technically allowed to vote or has a vote in general.

Caduto stated that until the governor passes it he doesn't officially have one, but they still want his opinion and involvement.

#### **4. Adopt/Review Minutes for June**

***Miller moved to approve the minutes for June. McClammar seconded. The vote passed unanimously.***

#### **5. Financial Report**

Rasmussen stated that it's early in the year and that there is not much to talk about, stated that the CRJC is in good financial standing. He asked Ian if he had anything to add.

Garland stated that he is still new to looking at the financial details, but everything looks good.



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Caduto added that the Vermont contract for FY25 will start on November 1<sup>st</sup> and is waiting to be finalized.

De Vries asked what the November 1<sup>st</sup> date is.

Caduto explained that it is extra time to get the contract written and in place. It pushes it down the road a bit for the contract to be written.

Kennet moved to approve the financial report. Cooley seconded; the vote passed unanimously.

## **6. Continuing Assessment Program or "CAP"**

### **a. 1- Funding and Deliverables**

Caduto stated that NH funding is \$30,000 a year and comes in a two-year commitment, so there is funding for this year and next. The VT is a one-year commitment and there was \$35,000 for this year and \$40,000 for next year. Additional funding from the Island Sound Futures Fund Project that CRJC has committed to. An application has just gone in for the NH 604(b) funding for regional planning commissions. Olivia just submitted an application for updating the overall river plan and that is \$57,000.

### **b. Membership**

Caduto stated that they are looking to fill vacancies. Talked about the concerns of the LRS's on the low membership. VT has only one town rep for Headwaters. Mentioned increasing presence at public tabling events in the future.

De Vries asked who to point prospective members to regarding gaining membership.

Caduto stated that the first level of contact would be to refer them to Garland and Theall and then they can pass it on to the LRS that would be involved.

McClammer talked about different lists that the state maintains of scientists and professionals that could be valuable members to add to the CRJC.

Miller asked if there was a summary of the open slots where you could easily see which spot is open.

Caduto stated that she could work with Garland to put together a comprehensive list with that information.

### **c. Leadership and Staffing**

Rasmussen mentioned that this committee consists of only himself. Olivia developed a list of onboarding information for new staff and commissioners, and he reviewed it. Thinks that the document is complete but is not sure and will check in with her.

### **d. CRJC – LRS Relationship**

Has not met yet.

### **e. Dialogue**



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Caduto mentioned that they had multiple successful Bi-State activities. Said she will reach out to the Connecticut River Watershed Farmer's Alliance. The plan is for another agriculture meeting. CRC has been working on compiling all the data they have been getting for water quality. Combine with CRC and have them present that data.

#### **f. CAP & Communications Plan**

Has not met yet.

### **7. NH Fishing Rules Proposal – Comments from Headwaters LRS**

Purrington stated that Fish and Game was proposing several new rule changes that would affect the status of several rivers, lakes, and streams in terms of how they can be fished. One of the rules would have changed the trophy stretch from fly-fishing only to spin-fishing as well, Back Lake would have become an ice-fishing lake reservoir. Fish and Game has pulled this off the table due to significant backlash and negative statements they have received. They also cancelled the public meeting. Fish and Game will circle the wagon and bring it back next year in a different form.

### **8. Updates and Other Business**

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

Purrington stated that Great River Hydro has responded to the comments submitted by FERC and FERC has now conducted an environmental analysis and they may issue a draft resolution by the end of this year.

McClammer talked about the letter that CRJC submitted to FERC. He said that he wanted to know if there was a response from Great River Hydro on the number of comments submitted to FERC which was 135, 9 of which requested intervener status. Has this request gone any further?

Garland said that he would ask Olivia for an update.

McClammer also asked if NH will be reviewing the comments that were submitted to FERC as VT did.

Garland said that he would also ask Olivia about that.

#### **b. Long Island Sound Future Funds – Agriculture & Stormwater**

Caduto stated that Olivia has done a lot of work on this project and that there is a lot left to be done. She asked Garland if he had heard anything about the project.

Garland stated that he hasn't been given many details about the project yet but will be given updates in the coming months.

#### **c. Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act**



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Caduto stated that there is no news as far as she is aware.

Francis talked about how she was president of the CRJC from 1990-2010 and most of the funding came from earmarks. Stated that they had a budget of \$900,000. Brought the watershed management plan, the Water Recreation Management Plan, Water Resources Management Plan, and the Watershed Atlas and talked about how helpful they are and showed what could be done with a larger budget.

**4:00 PM      Close**

Caduto thanked everyone for attending.

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

*Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Ian Garland.*

DRAFT