



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, June 30th, 2025 - 2 PM
Hybrid Meeting – Lebanon Library, Damren Room

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	Rebecca Todd	P	MARC	Jason Rasmussen	X
CRFCC	OPEN		TRORC	Pete Fellows	
Hydro-Electric	Tim Purrington	V	RPC#5	OPEN	
Conservation	OPEN		At Large	Beth Kennett	V
Tourism	OPEN		At Large	Hannah Dallas	X
Agricultural	OPEN		At Large	Erin De Vries	V
Forest Products	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	
At Large	Jim McClammer	X	At Large	OPEN	
At Large	Paul Detwiler	P	At Large	OPEN	
At Large	Greg Castell	P	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:

Renee Theall, Staff; Nick Ashooh; John Tuthil, Acworth NH;

Virtual:

Ryan O'Donnell, CRC;

AGENDA

2:00 PM Convene

1. Welcome

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

2. Adopt/Review Minutes of January and March

Caduto opens the January meeting minutes for review. Edits from McClammer, Rasmussen moved to accept with amendments, Ghia seconded.

By motion of Todd/Miller, the minutes are approved. The motion passes unanimously.



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3. Financials

Rasmussen was not on, so Caduto delayed the agenda item until later.

- a. Treasurer's Report
- b. Update on NH Funding
- c. Update on Status

Caduto did mention that we most likely have the \$30,000 funding from NH, Todd inquired if that was total for one year or two, Caduto clarified that was for one year and the \$60,000 total is for the two-year period. Caduto raised that the VT funding is also set and they will be going thru that in the next few months to secure the \$40,000 grant funding for FY26.

4. CRJC Annual Report to Members

a. Accomplishments

Caduto gave an overview of the CRJC officers and the work that has been accomplished over the last year. She mentioned the Water quality testing and will hear more of that from Ryan's presentation, but the CRJC has been completing this for several years now and this is a large task on both the NH & VT sides.

The Local River Subcommittees have been active over the past year, they have been reviewing & commenting on NH permits along with starting to review and comment again on the VT side.

Last year there were three outreach events: Floodplain Management, Nitrogen pollution, and best practices (180 participants). There was also the Climate Migration series in collaboration with Antioch and Dartmouth, that CRJC hosted and promoted. Agriculture in the CT River Valley workshop

- **Welcome to new UV Staff**
- **New(ish) Officers**
- **2024 Annual Report**

b. Upcoming projects

i. Bi-State ag meeting

Caduto mentioned that the AG forum is set for October 24th, Shaheen has been invited to speak at the meeting. Her office has it but we will not know if she is confirmed until closer to the date

ii. By-Law updates

- a. Ghia & Detwiler have been working on these, Caduto noted that we most likely won't have time to get to this today & will look to these at a future meeting

iii. CAP Committees actions



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Caduto inquired if any meetings, Staff Theall mentioned that the annual calendar is drafted and will be circulated.

iv. Meeting Schedules

v. Committee Recruitment

Todd introduced CRC's NH new River Steward – Marilla Haris-Vincent, she is based out of Claremont.

5. LRS Update & Nominations

a. Vote on Nick Ashooh

Caduto introduced Nickolas Ashooh, he is a new board nominee. Ashooh gave an introduction: he lives in Lyme, originally from Manchester, has worked in the Public Service of NH in the construction/licensing, combined has 28yrs in utilities/hydro power. Works now for a Global Communications consultant based in Washington, but works remotely. He mentioned that he is a rower and when they moved up here he was looking to get involved and where would be helpful, he mentioned to Governor Ayotte and thought this would be a good place to help serve. He is looking forward to serving on the Commission.

Caduto welcomed and thanked him.

Caduto put Nick's nomination on the floor for a NH At-Large Member, *Todd moved, Miller seconded.*

Caduto asked if any discussion/questions. Ghia thanked Ashooh, De Vries asked how he heard and was connected to CRJC? Ashooh said he looked for it, his interest and involvement in years past with the river, he self-nominated. Caduto mentioned their first meeting a few months ago and discussion.

Roll call vote was taken, all in favor. No abstentions, none opposed. The motion passes unanimously.

b. Vote on Upper Valley removals

Caduto explained the Upper Valley LRS Chair has requested that there are individuals who have not been attending meetings and is requesting removal. Todd inquired if the members have been spoken with, Theall confirmed that emails were sent with notifications for their removal, and Caduto mentioned that the Chair has also reached out to them. Ghia inquired that this is the Full Commissions purview for removal, Caduto confirmed. Caduto put on the floor that the following members be removed:

Alice Creagh, Hanover
Ruth Bleyler, Lebanon
Eric Agterberg, Lebanon
Carl Schmidt, Orford

Todd moved, Miller Seconded.



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Discussion: Cooley mentioned that these members used to be in attendance but have not been for several years and so they are being asked to be removed. De Vries inquired how many people remain after these four are removed. Cooley mentioned that there is approximately 8 other members.

All in favor, none opposes, no abstentions. The motion passes unanimously.

c. Report from LRS/staff update

There was not an individual report, Theall mentioned that Gardner is working on a written report for the FC meetings going forward.

d. Open meeting law changes on virtual attendance – review

6. Mission Statement – Vote

Caduto asked Ghia to give a review of the statement updates thus far. Ghia reviewed the CAP committee's work thus far, surveys, documents that were pulled together to review the organization's structure and mission of CRJC. Ghia's recommendation for today is to discuss the Vision & Mission, Ghia mentioned that after reviewing the by-laws recently, the Values & Strategies may need to be reviewed again with that lens. The Action items' were never meant to be complete at this time, more of a working goal. Maybe next time look closer at the by-laws and Values & Strategies sections and how they overlap.

Caduto shared the working document, Todd had sent in some comments prior to the meeting as well. The current, proposed mission, and suggested revision were reviewed. Caduto read aloud the proposed version: *To guide the preservation of the ecological, agricultural, recreational, and aesthetic resources of the New Hampshire and Vermont portions of the Connecticut River Valley for residents and visitors so that the valley is a vibrant, healthy watershed that hosts resilient and thriving communities.*

Caduto then read the suggested revision: *The CRJC guides preservation of the ecological, agricultural, recreational, and aesthetic resources of the Connecticut River Valley to help ensure a vibrant and healthy watershed and resilient and thriving communities for all.*

Caduto then went over comments received from other Commissioners (see attached). Discussion ensued around the mission statement and the origination of the directing RSA's. De Vries commented that she would include the statutory language in the mission. Todd expressed concern over the phrase 'Connecticut River Valley' that it is a dated terminology when speaking to the watershed as a whole and what the CRJC does. Detwiler commented that as a former lawyer, dissecting the language that legislators have passed and is reluctant to change that within the mission statement. Todd mentioned that a lot of this stems into the 'Strategy' phase. Ghia mentioned that the statement 'protect resources' is very human centric and maybe that is okay, but raised the intrinsic values for the environment itself, perhaps the language is dated. Discussion around the words and legislation continued.

7. Presentation Water Quality in the Connecticut River – Ryan O'Donnell, CRC



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Caduto introduced Ryan O'Donnell from CRC, and his presentation on Water Quality in the CT River.

O'Donnell presented on the 2022-2023 CRJC Data Review. This is a first review and he will be preparing a written report after this.

There are two years of data that has been collected by CRJC through the LaRosa Partnership program through the VT Agency of Natural Resources. Parameters tested are: Total Nitrogen, Total Phosphorus, and Total Chloride.

For the VRAP – administered by the NHDES, water tested by meters loaned by NHDES to the groups. Parameters tested are: Dissolved Oxygen, pH, Specific Conductance, and Turbidity.

O'Donnell reviewed the testing sites, and mentioned that the majority of the CT River from Brattleboro north is classified by the EPA as the Northeastern Highlands, with a tiny bit up to Brattleboro classified as the Northeastern Coastal Zone Eco region. These classifications refer mostly to the nutrients and temperature.

O'Donnell then reviewed the VT & NH standards for Total Phosphorous & Nitrogen along with the EPA recommendations, and shared the Phosphorus & Nitrogen results from 2022-2023. He also shared the results by flow as well. (see video posted for details).

Chloride does not have a lot of standards set at this time from VT, NH, or the EPA, so O'Donnell explained the levels that would be considered chronic (killing aquatic life). Nowhere along the CT River does it hit that high. Large influx of Chloride was shown in the Hartford/Lebanon area. Unknown where this is exactly coming from, but will look into more for the report.

VRAP – Dissolved Oxygen

O'Donnell explained that the standards for these are a bit complicated. The samples were really few one of the years. Once there is more of a baseline this should provide more information.

VRAP – PH

O'Donnell explained the VT, NH, and EPA standards. NH & VT are a little more protective on the water. The water tends to be a bit more acidic, acid rain being a contributing factor. When looked at by month, the summer months were drastically different, pouring of concrete and construction could be impacting this.

VRAP – Turbidity

This shows how clear the river is, and can affect aquatic plant activity if the sunlight can't get into the water. O'Donnell reviewed the VT, NH, and EPA standards. Turbidity is really low, less than 5, so this is really good. Below 10 is the goal.

Conductance Standards – no real standard as geography and conditions impact this. Often 100-200 is the consistent bandwidth with other rivers in New England, and the CT River is within that range as well.



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O'Donnell then reviewed the water temperature by month and by flow.

Discussion/Questions ensued, Detwiler asked if the states have any regular monitoring stations as USGS does, O'Donnell noted that with the way that the river is set up NH would be the primary source of that and why the CRJC taking these samples is so important. Caduto mentioned that the USGS has a gauge just south of the NH/VT border, it was decommissioned (monitoring and flow gauge), one of the CRJC's accomplishments was that the station was reinstated to help monitor the nitrogen load, but has not gathered data yet. Consistency of sampling will be key moving forward so that the data can be stronger going forward.

8. Presentation: Hydro Relicensing Update – Kathy Urffer, CRC

Todd gave a review: Mid-May CRC filed an administrative appeal in MA and NH, and a judicial appeal in VT. CRC has been involved in the relicensing for the past 13 years. First conference for the court will be held July 21st. The issues in VT largely stems from the lack of a recreation plan. Other items from each of the agencies was reviewed. Haris-Vincent also mentioned that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been released and the public sessions and comment period will be shared, CRC is also putting together a 2page handout. De Vries thanked CRC for their work on this.

9. Presentation: Dalton Landfill Proposal Update – Jim McClammer

10. Continuing Assessment Plan or "CAP"

a. 1-Funding and Deliverables

Caduto

b. 2-Membership

Caduto

c. 3-Leadership and Staffing

None at this time

d. 4-CRJC-LRS Relationship

Note at this time

e. 5-Dialogue

None at this time

f. 6-CAP & Communications Plan

Mission statement draft has been supplied, Ghia gave overview of the process that they took to work through it.

11. Updates and Other Business

a. Update on LISFF SW & AG projects



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b. Other Business

a. Meeting dates changes: FY 2026

Added item: Annual Budget vote

Caduto raised that the Full Commission needs to vote on the Annual operating budget. The budget prepared was reviewed by Theall. Todd

By motion of Miller/Todd

Discussion: Todd reviewed the final budget and remaining balance and inquired on what is in the accounts currently.

The operating budget is approved. The motion passes unanimously.

Caduto called for a vote to continue the NH & VT Officers and the CRJC Officers as seated.

Miller moved, Colley seconded. All in favor. None opposed, no abstentions. The motion passes unanimously.

De Vries raised that her appointment ends June 30th, 2025. Next steps for re-appointment will follow.

Caduto welcomed John Tuthill from Acworth, Todd asked if any questions or concerns that he had for them. Tuthill mentioned that he was here to learn and appreciated the meeting and information.

4:00 PM Adjourn

Caduto thanks everyone for attending.

By motion of Miller/Cooley the meeting is adjourned. The motion passes unanimously. Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Renee Theall.

COMMENTS:

- wouldn't it be more appropriate to use the wording from the NH legislation, and concurred by VT in establishing the Connecticut River Commissions:
TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE RESOURCES OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY AND GUIDE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
 - In developing the strategic plan some years ago, we came to the conclusion that our main objective was to facilitate state to state discussion as a means of guiding development to conserve resources. The new statement is to guide preservation of resources. The two are very different.
 - does the new mission statement take into account the New Hampshire Connecticut River Valley Resource Commission (CRVRC) and the Vermont Connecticut River Watershed Advisory Commission (CRWAC) as set forth in the specific legislation establishing them?
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