



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 15th, 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 | X | NVDA | Beth Torpey | V |
| SWRPC | Jeffrey Miller | P | WRC | Margo Ghia | P |
| CRC | Rebecca Todd | P | MARC | Jason Rasmussen | P |
| CRFCC | OPEN | | TRORC | Pete Fellows | |
| Hydro-Electric | Tim Purrington | V | RPC#5 | OPEN | |
| Conservation | OPEN | | At Large | Beth Kennett | X |
| Tourism | OPEN | | At Large | Hannah Dallas | V |
| 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, Lyme NH;

Virtual:

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 June meeting minutes for review. DeVries moved to accept, Ghia seconded.

By motion of De Vries/Ghia, the minutes are approved. The motion passes unanimously.

3. Financials

Rasmussen reviewed the most recent financials, noted that it is still very early in the FY. Rasmussen inquired from staff if there were any notes from them, Theall had nothing outstanding and noted



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that there were not any items from MacEwan either at this time. Theall also mentioned that the VT funding contract would begin soon and that process is kicking off. Rasmussen did recall a recent invoice that was received from the accounting firm and that it was over their original quote & contract by \$200. Staff reached out to inquire and that has since been amended to the original quote and re-invoiced. Rasmussen thanked Caduto for catching that. Caduto rounded back on the VT funding and the notice that herself and Theall had received on the funding for \$40,000 from VT. Theall mentioned the two items that have been requested thus far are the Certificate of Good Standing and their proof of insurance.

4. LRS Update & Nominations

Caduto inquired if any updates/nominations. Theall commented that there are no nominations at this time, but Gardner did provide a written report/recap of the LRS's (see attached). Of note, Headwaters and Riverbend having significant membership gaps and attendance issues, while Upper Valley and Mt. Ascutney showed better participation levels. Gardner inquired from the Full Commission (FC) of any thoughts, ideas, or resources to help ease these pinch points.

Discussion by the FC was had on the challenges with local river subcommittee attendance and engagement, noting that about half of meetings this past summer struggled to reach quorum due to summer travel and vacation schedules. Ghia noted that the CAP committee may want to address this in more depth, but she had spoken with a few LRS members and a common thread was that some felt their contributions are not effectively utilized, particularly when reviewing permits. Some suggestions that the FC discussed included: updating the River Management Plans, implementing field trips, and re-engaging the speaker series to enhance engagement. Caduto had asked Theall and others to be on the lookout for possible funding for the River Management Plan. The FC asked staff to create a table tracking vacancies by subcommittee and town, and Theall was tasked with exploring funding opportunities for updating the river management plan to better engage both local and full board members. Rasmussen noted that vacancies among many municipal boards are very common everywhere at this time, so the table of vacancies would be helpful to focus efforts; Rasmussen also mentioned that the Mt. Ascutney LRS used to have more educational opportunities. Ghia mentioned also the gaps in some knowledge of permit reviewing and lack of information discussion around a technical assistance river series could be an opportunity. Theall mentioned that Gardner had raised recently that the VT permits are coming thru but not all of them have plans included, Caduto will work with Gardner to better understand what is coming through. The idea for a technical assistance review of plans & permits for a river series would be beneficial. Todd also raised that a legal review/understanding of the permit process could be of benefit as well for a larger picture approach, and help

De Vries raised that the CT River Corridor Management Plan, Water Resources Management plan, and the Recreation Plan, could be updated and how the LRS's are all within a watershed and could be a part of these updates. De Vries also raised the conservation of the river corridors and the



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outreach needed for this is vast. This could be an opportunity to have the LRS members be a part of the outreach/connector to the town boards when the VT River Conservancy and VT Land Trust are working on. For the Recreation side, De Vries mentioned that the LRS members could create a project within their region for a brief update

Caduto thanked De Vries, agreed, and noted that perhaps understanding land trusts and how to participate in the process could be another educational opportunity through the River Series. Caduto reiterated that the Management Plan needs to be updated and that each LRS has a section, perhaps the LRS's could start reviewing these. Todd raised that putting a full review of their plan is vast and could be overwhelming without some parameters in place. Discussion ensued around how best to review and update, and what possible first steps could be taken. The LRS CAP committee will review these items at their next meeting.

5. Mission Statement – Vote

The Committee is not ready yet, the CAP committee will meet asap in hopes to have it ready for the November FC meeting.

6. Continuing Assessment Plan or "CAP"

a. 1-Funding and Deliverables

None at this time

b. 2-Membership

None at this time

c. 3-Leadership and Staffing

None at this time

d. 4-CRJC-LRS Relationship

None at this time – on the docket for their next meeting: review LRS Survey results, review River Series possible topics and begin outlining.

e. 5-Dialogue

Update on the upcoming agricultural forum at Alyson's Orchard on October 24th, with efforts underway to promote the event through press releases and media outreach to both the Valley News and Keene Sentinel

f. 6-CAP & Communications Plan

Mission statement draft has been supplied, this will be on the docket for next EC & FC meetings.



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7. Updates and Other Business

a. Update on LISFF SW & AG projects

Caduto inquired from Theall if any updates on the UVLSRPC LISFF. Theall gave a summary of the project and that the primary task to CRJC is outreach and review support later in the project. Todd inquired how much funding CRJC has and it's primary use, Theall noted that there is approximately \$10,000 remaining and that it goes through to September 2026. The UVLSRPC LISFF grant is a very large project with a few subrecipients within it. Discussion around what type of projects are included within the project were reviewed, Caduto mentioned that one of the positives that this project brings is capacity, often at the municipal level there is not the capacity to identify & manage these types of projects.

Caduto gave a review of the LISFF AG project (run through the Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District) last week's Steering Committee meeting that took place. The concept of this one is to identify agricultural best management practices that will help to reduce nitrogen in the Connecticut River. So far, the project has created and implemented a survey of all the farmers in the watershed on both sides of the river. Five best management practices that have been identified thus far include: Cover cropping, No till/Reduce till farming, prescribed rotational grazing, nitrogen monitoring/assessment, and agro-forestry. The next phase of the project will include a large outreach component on better understanding how farmer's can better monitor and provide more educational opportunities along the Connecticut River.

Dallas inquired about a LISFF focused on more of a forestry lead, Caduto agreed that with the stormwater and the AG ones, the other area of forestry would help to round out the river corridor. Discussion around the scale and areas of the LISFF ensued, LISFF is a large grant and the management undertaking can be vast, Caduto noted that the administering agency would need to be identified and on-board with managing a grant of that scale.

b. Other Business

Castell raised the upcoming Bi-State AG and upcoming press release. Castell will be reaching out to the Valley News, Miller mentioned sending it to the Keene Sentinel as well. Miller gave an overview of the event: Bi-State Ag discussion at Alyson's Orchard, October 24th 10-2pm.

Theall raised that the Connecticut River Watershed Partnership (CRWP) is also holding an event on the 24th for RPC directors and inviting legislative members as well.

Caduto reviewed a recent opinion letter that was published in the August 28th VTDigger. It was submitted by Sharon Francis and Jim McClammer. Caduto was alerted to it by Jen Griffin, the former President and GRH CRJC Commissioner as Tim Purrington is now. The opinion piece had references to the CRJC within the article and was submitted by a former employee and commissioner and it was submitted under the name of the CRJC. Caduto raised that this is unfortunate as the article was not looked at or reviewed by the CRJC FC or EC. Caduto iterated that Hydro Quebec/Great River Hydro are important partners on the river and a part of this organization [CRJC]. This article was done not following protocols or approvals and has caused some disturbance. Caduto reminded the FC that anything that gets submitted to media or venue, on behalf of the CRJC, needs to be reviewed and approved by the FC and the Exec. Committee. Caduto stressed that



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there needs to be clarity when submitting something if it is from the CRJC or a personal letter/opinion. It was a difficult situation to manage, fortunately the VTDigger was willing to edit the article and remove the CRJC references as it was not from the CRJC, it was not approved, and it was beyond the original approved FERC comments. Caduto noted that neither Francis nor McClammer were in attendance, so they do not have any comment from them at this time. Caduto asked if any other EC members had any comments to add.

Rasmussen raised that the original version of the letter muddied the waters and made it appear that it was coming from the CRJC. Rasmussen noted that it would be acceptable if someone had an opinion piece, if notated correctly that it is on one's own personal opinions only. However, the way this was worded was not that way.

Miller recommended that the minutes reflect that the importance of the approval process to help avoid similar issues in the future.

Castell raised that this highlights the importance of the relationship with GRH, Caduto mentioned that Purrington is now the GRH representative and asked if he had any comments or thoughts.

Purrington mentioned that he had spoken with Griffin, who currently has a deeper understanding of the CRJC. He noted that she was genuinely upset about the situation but expressed full confidence that it would be addressed appropriately. Purrington added that it appears the matter has indeed been handled, and both he and Griffin expressed their appreciation to CRJC for addressing it and for representing GRH. Caduto thanked Purrington for his feedback and stepping into the GRH representative role.

Ghia raised that through this process another item was raised. Caduto spoke to the item, a few other the commissioners' nominations have not had action taken on them thru the NH process. The FC discussed problems with the commissioner nomination process, where several nominations have been delayed since September due to issues in the New Hampshire approval process, the nominations were sent in but never approved. The committee agreed that a written process for commissioner approvals and establishment of a schedule to track commissioner terms and expiration dates would be a component to create moving forward.

Todd raised a question on the letter approval process, there was a brief discussion pertaining to how to best create policy where a comment letter can be reviewed/approved by the EC and a timely manner moving forward.

3:23 PM Adjourn

Caduto thanks everyone for attending.

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