



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 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 1PM  
Join 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	P	Marie Caduto	P
Vice-Chair	Jeffrey Miller	P	Margo Ghia	P
Secretary / Treasurer	Greg Castell	P	Jason Rasmussen	P

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

Additional Attendance: Renee Theall, Staff Consultant; Ian Garland, Staff Consultant; Meghan Butts UVLSRPC Director; Jim McClammer, CRJC Commissioner, Charlestown, NH; Sharon Francis, Charlestown, NH.

### MINUTES

#### **12:30 PM Convene**

President Caduto convenes the meeting at 12:33 pm

1. Welcome
2. Minutes Review (September 15<sup>th</sup> 2025)

Ghia moved to approve the minutes from September. Rasmussen Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes unanimously.

3. **The board may enter into non-public (NH) / Executive Session (VT) as per below:**
  - a. **NH RSA 91-A:3, II (e,l) and under VT 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)**

Miller moved to enter a closed session, Rasmussen seconded. Roll Call vote:

Caduto: Yes  
 Ghia: Yes  
 Castell: Yes  
 Cooley: Yes  
 Miller: Yes  
 Rasmussen: Yes

McClammer objected to the non-public session.



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The motion carries and the group entered a closed non-public session at 12:36pm.

Ghia motions to close the non-public session, Miller Seconded. Roll-call for vote,

Caduto: Yes  
Ghia: Yes  
Castell: Yes  
Cooley: Yes  
Miller: Yes  
Rasmussen: Yes

All in favor, the motion passes unanimously.

The non-public session was closed at 1:03pm

#### **4. Sealing of Minutes if Applicable**

Rasmussen moved to seal the minutes from the closed session under NH RSA 91-A:3, II (e,l) and under VT 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1), Ghia seconded. Roll-call for vote:

Caduto: Yes  
Ghia: Yes  
Castell: Yes  
Cooley: Yes  
Miller: Yes  
Rasmussen: Yes

All in favor, the motion passes unanimously.

#### **5. Ag Forum Update**

Caduto provided an update on the Bi-State Agriculture Forum. It has been postponed to March 23<sup>rd</sup> due to the uncertainty of schedules given the government shutdown and unavailability of the speakers that were planned for.

Caduto asked to re-order the agenda, the EC all agreed.

#### **6. Financials**

Rasmussen gave an update on the financials. As of September, CRJC is running close to where it should be. If the NH funding fails, it will be a large concern.

Miller moved to approve the Financials, Cooley seconded. Roll-call for vote, All in favor, the motion passes unanimously.



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## **7. VT CRJC Grant - Review**

Caduto: NH has paused their \$30,000 for the next two years which was 44% of the CRJC budget in response to Great River Hydro's discussions with the Governor.

Theall clarified that the funding is paused for this fiscal year; the funding reimbursements for July & August were denied because the contract was not yet signed.

Miller inquired, and asked if Butts would have knowledge, on the funding was originally approved via general budget; how can they rescind the contract?

Butts replied that the contract was back dated so the withdrawal from the agenda item on the Governor & EC agenda stopped anything from happening. Technically, without a full funding contract in place, Butts noted that the UVLSRPC contract is at a place of needing review.

Caduto went through the budget with potential cuts and explained the money allocation currently in place which comes to \$33,055. The total expenses are \$41,755. There were several possible cuts reviewed, including the LRS's, Executive Meetings, the River Series, and WQ Monitoring. It was discussed that while the LRS's are large component of the NH contract, they are also a large portion of the budget. The EC discussed possible solutions/areas to trim the expenses, no decisions were made at this time.

Miller commented hopefully that they need to come up with a plan until we get the funding back if we do.

Discussion around the possibility and reinstatement of the NH Funding was had, Theall clarified that Sales from NHDES had noted that the funding is paused, pending further investigation. It's not denied or approved, so that is good news. Butts noted that they are here to support the CRJC, UVLSRPC has held a relationship with them for many years now and understand the impact that a change of funding can have on operations. Cooley mentioned that he and Caduto have offered to go down to Concord and meet to discuss but have not yet heard back.

Caduto raised that they are still awaiting NH appointments, three were sent in last September 2024 and have yet to be approved/appointed. Theall mentioned the communication in July (2025) with the NHDES on the appointments again and still no word on those three appointments. There are also some expired terms that need to be reinstated as well possibly.

Miller and Castell noted that this is a good time to get in front of important people who can change this, Miller will reach out to his Executive Councilor.

(Cooley left at 1:30)



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Ghia mentioned that there should be a reach out to Jen Griffin, Caduto and Miller stated that they are planning on it.

Miller noted the most important part is getting the funding back.

McClammer commented that the Governor's office withdrew that item on the consent agenda and that GRH has some involvement in this, and inquired if there is any known communication between GRH and the Governor's office. Caduto stated that there is not any that they know of.

McClammer asked that they share the discussions with him, as he does not feel cognizant of what is going on but it is impacting his life, many people are asking about these comments being made about him personally and impacting him. And that the best course may be a legal recourse, while the CRJC may not want to get into a legal process but that he has been involved in many of them, and they need to summon a request as to what information behind the scenes that they are not privy to. Caduto noted that if he asks for that information that is his request, and not the CRJC's. Miller noted that there are paths besides litigation and that the best path forward would be to focus on the NH funding.

Castell agreed that it is important to have a face-to-face meeting with Griffin and should ask what path brought this to Concord and how CRJC can mitigate with a gentle request. McClammer commented that a unified approach is important, Caduto commented that it will not be a legal one. Castell mentioned that there are still unknown things

Francis commented that Great River Hydro undermines the CRJC credibility by jeopardizing funding from it.

Caduto & Miller mentioned it was potentially because of the VT Digger article that the CRJC lost its funding. The tone of the letter was far more aggressive than CRJC's comments. Francis said that she believes that the letter was misread and misinterpreted.

Francis stated that Great River Hydro has undermined CRJC's reputation, and their next step would be to undermine whatever CRJC may have testified to FERC. Francis stated that GRH has a determination to prevail and that CRJC best course, is not to try and negotiate with them, but to go strongly to Governor and Council and that the CRJC has been misinterpreted and for all of these reasons the funding should be restored.

Caduto agreed mostly and stated however that they need to go on the political path. The letter that they wrote was written as on CRJC behalf, anyone that would read the letter would interpret it as from CRJC, and their job now is to protect the CRJC and ensure that it can continue.



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Ghia noted that Great River Hydro is an important partner, the relationship should be repaired. What is the approach for the Governor's office? Caduto replied that going in-person to Concord to mend and advocate would be a path and could be in parallel with the others identified.

Caduto and Rasmussen raised that the three paths appear to be: repairing the CRJC relationship with Great River Hydro, NHDES, and repair the budget.

Rasmussen inquired from Butts on the budget aspect and her recommendation going forward. Butts was supportive and understanding, Caduto asked if they could review the proposed cuts and give guidance on staffing needs. Butts said they certainly could, Caduto will send the proposed edits and Butts would review further and provide feedback on possible edits.

Rasmussen moved to approve the VT Contract, Miller seconded.

Discussion: Ghia raised a clarifying question with the VT Scope of Work, if it is just the VT funding, does that funding support the scope of work being completed. Caduto mentioned that it may need to be edited and that is possible after contract is signed if an amendment is needed.

All in favor (minus Cooley), the motion passes unanimously.

#### **8. Coverage of LRS and Discussion with UVLSRPC Staffing**

Garland spoke on behalf of the LRS's and stated that if the LRS groups go away altogether, even for a few months, it will be hard to get them back once/if the funding returns. Garland also asked about the upcoming LRS meetings and how he should proceed. Caduto and Butts would discuss the budget options given the funding state and will round back on possible next steps.

Caduto stated that she would send an email to the LRS groups explaining the situation with the NH Funding.

**2:03 PM      Adjourn**

Miller makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Castell seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

*Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Renée Theall*