

**Upper Valley Subcommittee
Special Meeting Notes**

Monday, May 19th, 2025 – 6:00 PM Meeting
Hybrid Meeting – Latham Library, Downstairs, 16 Library Rd, Thetford, VT

Attendance

NH Members:	Attendance	VT Members:	Attendance
Alice Creagh, Hanover	X	Ted Unkles, Bradford	P
Vacancy, Hanover		Vacancy, Bradford	
Eric Agterberg, Lebanon	X	Ben Dana, Fairlee	X
Ruth Bleyler, Lebanon	X	Arlene Guest, Fairlee	V
Bill Malcolm, Lyme	P	David Barrell, Hartford	X
Vacancy, Lyme		Lynn Bohi, Hartford	P
Ted Cooley, Orford	P	Bill Bridge, Thetford	P
		Linda Matteson, Thetford	P
Carl Schmidt, Orford	X	Watt Alexander, Norwich	X
Vacancy, Piermont		Lynnwood Andrews, Norwich	P
Vacancy, Piermont		Vacancy, Norwich	
Majestic Terhune, Lebanon	P		
Jude Stull, Lebanon	P		

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

Partners Present: Ian Garland (Staff, CRJC, In-person)

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Malcolm called the meeting to order at 6 pm

2. March Minutes:

Unkles motioned to approve the minutes with the noted changes. Bohi seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Permits

a. Hartford Individual Wetlands Permit

Bohi stated that the area seemed far away from the river. There was some confusion about how far the river needs to be from the permit location.

Malcolm asked if it was worth commenting on.

Unkles didn't see anything that jumped out so he wouldn't have any comments.

Bohi reviewed it and appreciated the opportunity to look at it and it is okay.

Stull confirmed that it is more than half a mile from the river

Bohi motioned to approve what was just discussed, Andrews seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Thetford Lake Encroachment Permit

Andrews said that it sounds like someone wrote it after they sent it and realized that they didn't go through all the channels they should have.

Guest was confused about why it was Upper Valley's jurisdiction.

Unkles said that it drains out into the Connecticut.

Guest asked if the group reviews docks and Bohi stated that they do.

Malcolm stated that he is not familiar enough with Vermont to comment.

Unkles said that they've been doing this for decades, but they just realized they should have a permit.

Andrews stated that they wanted to preserve the lakebed, so they wanted floating docks.

Bridge and Unkles about the lack of level fluctuation due to the dam.

Andrews has the same attitude as the Hartford one. Nothing wrong with the permit and seems responsible enough.

Malcolm said that it states the meaning well.

Bridge stated that it is part of the aloha foundation.

Stull asked a question about the possession of the dock. Stated that public access should factor into whether it is approved. Had questions about where the ownership makes sense.

Guest stated that there are several places on the lake that are public.

Motion to approve with the same language. Guest seconded, the vote passed unanimously.

c. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Malcolm explained the project and the proposal; the group must give the permit a thumbs up or down.

Bohi said that they used to have galvanized pipes, their dog used to refuse to drink from the faucet. She was shocked at what was in the pipes.

Andrews said that they have a moral obligation to remove lead from city pipes.

Unkles stated that the consensus is that this is a badly needed project. It's going to require lots of excavation along the river though. It seems to be a fine project, but it is important to make sure that when replacing them within a quarter mile, they need to make sure that there are runoff measures and erosion control methods.

Bohi said that they should approve it.

Terhune asked if it will be one large application or many small applications in the future.

Malcolm stated that it won't happen for a long time.

Terhune stated that there should be a consensus on how the group evaluates each application.

Malcolm talked about a standing rule document to address all of those. As long as it's done with good practice, it's okay.

Andrews asked where the money came from and if it could be taken away. Stull: Is it "yankable"

Garland asked if the 2.3 million dollars are in 2030 dollars or 2025 dollars.

Malcolm stated that he thinks it is an important project as did Stull

Stull motioned to accept and appreciate that permit application. Terhune seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Other Business

Bohi talked about some policy items, stated that landfills should be added to the list of things we need to add a fence around. Might want to put some barriers around them.

Malcolm asked what the things we need to add for a landfill. There needs to be beyond the scope to make sure it's not covered by the permits.

Bohi talked about being at the last executive committee meeting.

Stull confirmed that the objective of the CRJC is to protect the river.

Malcolm added that educating the public is important as well. The primary function is to advise and that the group has no regulatory authority.

Stull made a comment that there is a virtue to the narrowness of the focus.

Malcolm stated that water quality is also a focus.

5. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn from Unkles at 6:59 pm, Stull seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is July 24th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Ian Garland.