



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 15th, 2026 - 2 PM

Hybrid Meeting – Thetford Center Community building, Thetford Center VT

ATTENDANCE

NH CRVRC COMMISSIONERS			VT CRWAC COMMISSIONERS		
NCC	Michelle Moren-Gray	X	Sec. Nat. Resources	Marie Caduto	P
UVLSRPC	Ted Cooley	P	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	X
Hydro-Electric	Tim Purrington	V	RPC#5	OPEN	
Conservation	OPEN		At Large	Beth Kennett	
Tourism	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	
Agricultural	OPEN		At Large	Erin De Vries	X
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	V	At Large	OPEN	
At Large	Nicholas Ashooh	P	At Large	OPEN	
At Large	OPEN		At Large	OPEN	

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

NH Standing Authorization – Remote Attendance NH RSA 91-A:2, IV(a)

Additional attendance

In Person: Renée Theall, Staff consultant; Kathy Urffer, CRC

Virtual:

DRAFT MINUTES

2:00 PM Convene

1. Welcome

President Caduto starts the meeting at 2:00 pm. Commissioners and guests in attendance introduce themselves.

2. Break-out meeting of NH-CRVRC & VT CRWAC for Officers Elections

a. NH CRVRC

- The NH CRVRC meeting is opened at 2:05pm. Cooley provides a brief Review of Officers and then entertains a motion.
- Todd makes a motion for Cooley to Chair the NH CRVRC, Miller seconded. Roll call vote. The motion passes unanimously.
- Motion to close the NHCRVRC individual meeting by motion of Todd/Ashooh at 2:08pm. Roll call vote. The motion passes unanimously



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b. VT CRWAC

- a. Caduto opened the VT CRWAC meeting at 2:09pm.
- b. Ghia makes a motion for Caduto to Chair the VT CRWAC, Rasmussen seconded. Roll call vote. The motion passes unanimously.
- c. Motion to close the VT CRWAC individual meeting of Rasmussen/Torpey. Roll call vote. The motion passes unanimously.

Paul Detwiler arrived at 2:10pm

3. CRJC Officers Elections

Caduto gave a review of the Officers and the end of the two-year term of Presidency. Caduto then reviewed the slate of Officer appointments proposed:

Jeff Miller, President
Marie Caduto, Vice President
Jason Rasmussen, Treasurer
Margho Ghia, Secretary
Ted Cooley & Greg Castell, At Large Members

Ghia/Cooley motion to approve the slate of Officers for CRJC as presented. No discussion. Roll call vote. The motion passes unanimously.

4. Adopt/Review Minutes of May 18th

Miller opens the May 18th FC meeting minutes for review. Caduto moved to accept, Cooley seconded.

By motion of Caduto/Cooley, the Minutes are approved. Roll call vote. The motion passes unanimously.

5. Financials & FY27 budget

Rasmussen opened with the news that the NH funding has been restored. Then reviewed the April Financials. Rasmussen inquired with Theall on any staff updates, Theall noted that MacEwan who has been completing the accounting side of things in the office is retiring at the end of the month, but they have hired someone into the role and transition training is in progress. NH Funding will be coming in; they will be working on invoicing.

By motion of Rasmussen/Cooley, the financials are accepted. Roll call vote. The motion passes unanimously.

Caduto shared information provided from staff that the accounting firm that they use are no longer completing non-profit 990/compilation reports. The previous firm had referred them to A.M. Peisch accounting in Lebanon NH. Brief conversation around accounting availability and request for estimates ensued. Caduto asked that this item be put on the Executive Council agenda for August.



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The FY27 budget item was raised. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the FY27 budget as presented. Miller seconded. Brief discussion around VT Funding outlined for July-Nov 1, and then Nov 1-June 30th. Rasmussen noted that the budget was status quo from previous years, Theall confirmed that it was. Theall mentioned that they don't have the insurance costs finalized so that could shift, the previous year saw a 3% increase. Brief conversation around NH retroactive funding and if there would be rollover to FY27. There was not information at this time, but staff would inquire.

By motion of Rasmussen/Cooley, the FY27 Budget is approved. Roll call vote. The motion passes unanimously.

6. CRJC Update

Miller provided a recap of FY26:

- NH funding was lost but will be back
- Bi-State event was a great success and looking forward to next years planning
- NH Executive Council questions raised – Miller reviewed the conversation with the Governor and Executive Council regarding the NH CRVRC funding and the Commission.
- A priority going forward for the CRJC is to fill the open seats
 - Miller asked that they aim to have a few names to review at the September FC meeting

7. By-Law Revision Vote

Caduto reviewed the drafted changes. Caduto, Detwiler, and Ghia worked diligently on these proposed changes. Commissioners reviewed the updates in red.

Todd made a motion to approve the By-law Revisions as presented. Cooley seconded. Brief discussion on substantive changes, Caduto mentioned page 9, and electronic voting update. Ghia raised a question around Section 8.2 President. Brief conversation ensued. Caduto confirmed that this section was not revised.

By motion of Todd/Cooley, the By-Law Revisions are approved. Roll call vote. The motion passes unanimously.

NH CRVRC individual meeting – Todd motioned to re-elect the NH CRVRC Chair to align with Section 8.2 By-Laws, and motioned that Jeff Miller be the Chair and Ted Cooley be the Vice-Chair. Miller seconded. No discussion.

By motion of Todd/Miller, the NH CRVRC Chair and Vice-Chair are amended and approved. Roll call vote. The motion passes unanimously.



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8. Water Quality Standard in NH & VT Presentation

Kathy Urffer, Connecticut River Conservancy presented *River Impacts and the Clean Water Act: Water Quality Standards in VT and NH*. Urffer shared how the standards are defined within the Clean Water Act, and that there are three essential parts – Designated Uses, Criteria, and Antidegradation. Urffer then walked through the three essential parts and how each state looks at them. Questions and discussion ensued during and after the presentation relating to water quality differences between the states, out of range trends, water quality testing, volunteers and training, and funding sources to sustain water quality testing and monitoring. Urffer summarized the role of the River Stewards and noted the points of: Engagement with the Public, Education, that leads into and supports advocacy for legislative work.

9. Other Business

a. None

3:55 PM Adjourn

Miller thanks everyone for attending.

*By motion of Cooley/Miller the meeting is adjourned. The motion passes unanimously.
Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Renée Theall*



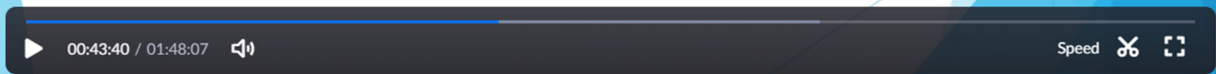
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River Impacts and the Clean Water Act: Water Quality Standards in VT and NH



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Who can see your viewing activity? X

THE OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE OF THE CWA IS:
To restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters.¹⁷

Evolution of the Clean Water Act

- 1899** Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (a.k.a., Refuse Act) - prohibit dumping into navigable waters, control-at-the-source
- 1948** Federal Water Pollution Control Act - waste disposal was fundamental use of water; primary responsibility with states; narrower jurisdiction—only interstate waters (broadly applied but narrower than all navigable); abatement lawsuits only when danger to health or welfare of persons in a different state from the discharge; state could veto federal lawsuits
- 1956** Act of July 9, 1956 - definition of interstate waters narrowed; more delay added to administrative process
- 1961** Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments of 1961 - interstate waters again broadened to 1948 definition; federal authority expanded to address pollution affecting those within same state as the discharge; still no effective federal enforcement mechanism
- 1965** Water Quality Act of 1965 - water quality standards introduced; protection no longer tied only to public health and welfare
- 1966** Clean Water Restoration Act of 1966 - mandatory reporting requirements for discharges; civil penalties for noncompliance

- 1970** 1970 Water Quality Improvement Act - nationally uniform control strategy; oil pollution included with national spill contingency plan and revolving fund; civil and criminal penalties for past acts of pollution; control of hazardous substances; federal licensing for discharges required compliance with water quality standards
- 1972** Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (a.k.a., Clean Water Act) - established basic structure for regulating pollutant discharges; gave EPA authority to implement pollution control programs; reinforced water quality standards requirements; funded sewage treatment plant construction; addressed nonpoint source pollution
- 1977** Clean Water Act Amendments of 1977 - "midcourse corrections"; increase emphasis on control of toxic pollutants
- 1987** Water Quality Act of 1987 - changed grants to state revolving loan programs; antibacksliding, nonpoint source production management, administrative penalties, and expanded judicial review

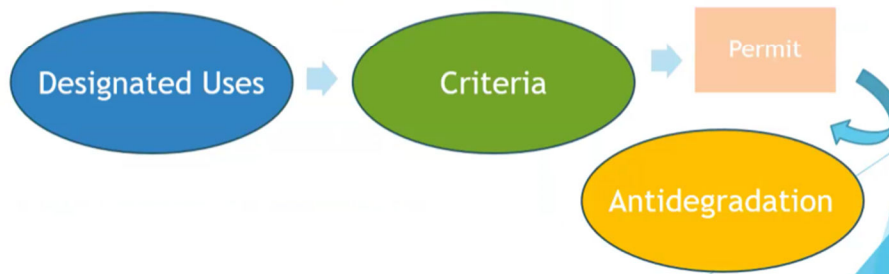
SOURCES:
Fogarty, John P.C., "A Short History of Federal Water Pollution Control Law," 1991 Clean Water Deskbook, The Environmental Law Reporter, 1991.
Liebesman, Lawrence R., and Law, Elliot P., "The Water Quality Act of 1987: A Major Step in Assuring the Quality of the Nation's Waters," 1991 Clean Water Deskbook, The Environmental Law Reporter, 1991.



WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

- ensure the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of state's waters, by
- designating various uses to state waterbodies, and
- determining the level of water quality to be achieved for those uses
- process for protecting all uses

Three Essential Parts



- Define how water body has been or is desired to be used
 - Public water supply
 - Fish, shellfish, wildlife
 - Recreation
 - Agriculture
 - Aquifer/groundwater
 - other
- Designated uses need to be protected
- Designated uses may not be currently attained
- Uses may differ with different classifications





Criteria

- Conditions that must be met to support the most sensitive designated use
- If not met, considered impaired
 - Water quality status on 305b report
 - Impaired or threatened in need of TMDL on 303d list

CRITERIA EXAMPLES			
	NUMERIC (maximum, minimum, acceptable range)		NARRATIVE (watershed health goals)
CHEMICAL Metals, pesticides, toxic contaminants, pH	Zinc $\leq 120\mu\text{g/L}^*$ Copper $\leq 13\mu\text{g/L}^*$ Dieldrin $\leq 0.24\mu\text{g/L}^*$ * freshwater acute criteria	pH 6–9 Dissolved Oxygen $\geq 6\text{mg/L}$	• No toxic contaminants in toxic amounts. • No arsenic above natural levels.
PHYSICAL Temperature, sediment, flow, habitat conditions	Temperature < 60 degrees TSS $< 45\text{mg/L}$ Flow $>$ Minimum flows often set by fish and wildlife agencies	Cobble $\geq 25\%$ Width to depth ration	• No temperature fluctuations or sediment loading above "natural" conditions. • Flows must be sufficient to protect designated and existing uses. • Habitat must support designated uses.
BIOLOGICAL Species abundance, richness, and diversity	Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) Invertebrate Community Index (ICI) Number of each type of benthic macroinvertebrate found Number of types of benthic macroinvertebrates found		• Unimpaired habitat for aquatic life. • Water quality shall be sufficient to sustain a diverse macroinvertebrate community of indigenous species. • Waters which currently support a high quality aquatic community shall be maintained at that high quality.

Reproduced from: The Clean Water Act Owner's Manual; River Network; Oct. 2022



Antidegradation

Policy ensures water quality is only improved and not diminished during permitting

Tier 1. PROTECT EXISTING USES

- Demonstrated to have occurred since Nov 28, 1975
- Water quality must be suitable for use to be attained - even if it is not currently being used that way
- "protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and provides for recreation"

Tier 2. MAINTAIN "HIGH QUALITY" WATERS

- Water quality exceeds levels necessary to support uses
- May only be lowered under certain circumstances

Tier 3. PROTECT "OUTSTANDING" WATERS

- Applies where ordinary use criteria may not be sufficient

Definitions - VT "designated use"

- ▶ **designated use** - any value or use, whether presently occurring or not, for which a water has been designated as Class A(1), A(2), B(1), or B(2).
- ▶ (1) **Aquatic biota** and wildlife that may utilize or are present in the waters;
- ▶ (2) **Aquatic habitat** to support aquatic biota, wildlife, or plant life;
- ▶ (3) The use of waters for **swimming** and other primary contact recreation;
- ▶ (4) The use of waters for **boating** and related recreational uses;
- ▶ (5) The use of waters for **fishing** and related recreational uses;
- ▶ (6) The use of waters for the enjoyment of **aesthetic** conditions;
- ▶ (7) The use of the water for **public water source**; and
- ▶ (8) The use of water for **irrigation** of crops and other agricultural use

Designated Uses



Definitions - NH "designated use"

Designated uses - means those uses specified in water quality standards for each waterbody or segment whether or not such uses are presently occurring.

- ▶ (a) **Swimming** and other recreation in and on the water;
- ▶ (b) **Fish consumption** - surface water can support a population of fish free from toxicants and pathogens;
- ▶ (c) **Shellfish consumption**- tidal surface water can support a population of shellfish free from toxicants and pathogens;
- ▶ (d) **Aquatic life integrity** - surface water can support a balanced, integrated, and adaptive community of organisms having a species composition, diversity, and functional organization comparable to that of similar natural habitats;
- ▶ (e) **Wildlife** - the surface water can provide habitat capable of supporting any life stage or activity of undomesticated fauna on a regular or periodic basis; and
- ▶ (f) Potential **drinking water** supply - suitable for human intake and meet state and federal drinking water requirements after adequate treatment.

Designated Uses





Classification

Designated Uses

	Class A	Class B
NH	- highest quality - no discharge of any sewage or wastes - potentially acceptable for water supply uses after adequate treatment	- second highest quality - no objectionable physical characteristics - no disposal of sewage or waste into said waters without adequate treatment - acceptable for fishing, swimming and other recreational purposes - after adequate treatment, acceptable for use as water supplies



Classification

Designated Uses

	Class A	Class B
VT	Class A(1): - natural condition - significant ecological value - Above 2500 ft Class A(2): Waters that are - suitable for a public water source with filtration and disinfection or other required treatment - character uniformly excellent - Above 2500 feet	Class B(1): - Below 2500 feet - one or more uses are of demonstrably and consistently higher quality than Class B(2) waters Class B(2) are suitable for: - primary contact recreation - irrigation and agricultural uses - aquatic biota and aquatic habitat - good aesthetic value - boating, fishing, and other recreational uses - public water source with treatment



Criteria Dissolved Oxygen



	NH	VT
Dissolved Oxygen Class B	Except as naturally occurs, waters shall have: >75% daily average >5 mg/L instantaneous - This includes top 25% of thermally unstratified lakes/reservoirs/etc. - below shall protect existing uses >9.5 mg/L (week average) and >8 mg/L instantaneous in cold water spawning areas Oct - May. - CSO receiving waters shall be >5 ppm DO for the duration of the discharge for up to 3 days following cessation of the discharge	Cold Water Salmonid Habitat: >7mg/L and 75% saturation at all times, >95% saturation during late egg maturation and larval development of salmonids All other Cold Water Fish Habitats: >6 mg/L and 70% saturation at all times Warm Water Fish Habitat: >5 mg/L and 60% saturation at all times.



Criteria Temperature



	NH	VT
Temperature Class B	Any stream temperature increase associated with the discharge of treated sewage, waste or cooling water, water diversions, or releases shall not be such as to appreciably interfere with the uses assigned to this class. In prescribing minimum treatment provisions for thermal wastes discharged to interstate waters, the department shall adhere to the water quality requirements and recommendations of the NH Fish and Game department, NEIWPCC, or the US EPA, whichever requirements and recommendations provide the most effective level of thermal pollution control.	The change or rate of change in temperature, either upward or downward, shall be controlled to ensure full support of aquatic biota, wildlife, and aquatic habitat uses. Cold Water Fish Habitat: B(2) for Fishing: increase from ambient due to discharges <1° F. Warm Water Fish Habitat: Rivers, Streams, Brooks, Creeks, and River Impoundments. - ambient >66° F, change <1° F. - ambient 63° F - 66° F, <2° F. - ambient 59° F - 62° F, <3° F. - ambient 55° F - 58° F, <4° F. - Ambient <55° F, <5° F.



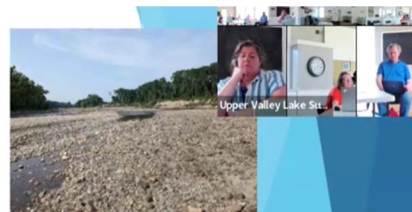
Criteria Aesthetics



	NH	VT
Aesthetics Class B	All waters shall be free from substances in kind or quantity which: settle to form harmful deposits; float as foam, debris, scum or other visible substances; produce odor, color, taste or turbidity which is not naturally occurring and would render it unsuitable for its designated use; result in the dominance of nuisance species; or interfere with recreational activities.	B(1): Water character, flows, water level, bed and channel characteristics, exhibiting very good aesthetic value. B(2): Water character, flows, water level, bed and channel characteristics and flowing and falling water of good aesthetic value.



Criteria Silt and Sand Deposits



	NH	VT
Silt and Sand Deposits Class B	Waters shall contain no benthic deposits that have a detrimental impact on the benthic community, unless naturally occurring.	NA



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Antidegradation

Impaired Uses and Attainment

305b - status report

303d - impaired list

argisservice.digital.mass.gov/MassDEPWaterQuality/index

Assessment

Assessment Unit ID (2022)

MA34-02

Water Name (2022)

Connecticut River

Watershed (2022)

Connecticut

Water Type (2022)

RIVER

Size (2022)

11.4 MILES

Class (2022)

B

Qualifier (2022)

WWF

Category (2022)

5

TMDL Count (2022)

0

Description (2022)

Route 10 bridge, Northfield to Turners Falls dams (NATID: MA00848 and MA00849); Gill/Montague (excluding the delineated segment; Barton Cove MA34019).

2022

2018/2020

2016

2014

2012

2010

Download

Use	Attainment	Alert	Cause	Pollutant Flag	Source	Source Confirmed	Action ID	Report ID	Report Title
No Filter	No Filter	No Filter	No Filter	No Filter	No Filter	No Filter	No Filter	No Filter	No Filter
Fish, other Aquatic Life and Wildlife	Not Supporting	N	WATER CHESTNUT	N	INTRODUCTION OF NON-NATIVE ORGANISMS (ACCIDENTAL OR INTENTIONAL)	Y			
Primary Contact Recreation	Insufficient Information	Y							
Aesthetic	Insufficient Information	Y							
Fish Consumption	Not Supporting	N	PCBS IN FISH TISSUE	Y	SOURCE UNKNOWN	N			
Fish, other Aquatic Life and Wildlife	Not Supporting	N	ALTERATION IN STREAM-SIDE OR LITTORAL VEGETATIVE COVERS	N	STREAMBANK MODIFICATIONS/DESTABILIZATION	Y			
Fish, other Aquatic Life and Wildlife	Not Supporting	N	FLOW REGIME MODIFICATION	N	IMPACTS FROM HYDROSTRUCTURE FLOW REGULATION/MODIFICATION	Y			
Secondary Contact Recreation	Insufficient Information	Y							

Show 10 entries

1 to 7 of 7

Show On Map



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Antidegradation

Impaired Uses and Attainment

	Severe	Poor	Likely Bad	No Data	Likely Good	Marginal	Good
	Not Supporting, Severe	Not Supporting, Marginal	Insufficient Information -- Potentially Not Supporting	No Data	Insufficient Information -- Potentially Full Supporting	Full Support, Marginal	Full Support, Good
CATEGORY	Description						
Category 2	Meets standards						
Category 3	Insufficient Information						
Category 4	Does not Meet Standard;						
4A	TMDL* Completed	4A-P	4A-M or 4A-T				
4B	Other enforceable measure will correct the issue	4B-P	4B-M or 4B-T				
4C	Non-pollutant (i.e. exotic weeds)	4C-P	4C-M				
Category 5	TMDL* Needed	5-P	5-M or 5-T				

Assessment Unit ID: NHIMP801060703-05
Assessment Unit Name: Connecticut River -
Bellows Falls
Town(s) Primary Town is Listed First:
Charlestown, Walpole

Size: 1720 ACRES
Assessment Unit Category: 5-M
Beach: N

Designated Use Description	Design. Use Category	Parameter Name	Parameter Threatened (Y/N)	2009	2015	2021
Aquatic Life Integrity	5-M	ALUMINUM	N	N/A	3-PAS	
		AMMONIA (TOTAL)	N	2004	N/A	3-ND
		COPPER	N	2005	N/A	3-ND
		Chloride	N	2015	N/A	3-PAS
		Chlorophyll-a	N	2004	N/V	3-ND
		DISSOLVED OXYGEN SATURATION	N	2015	N/A	3-ND
		LEAD	N	2005	2004	3-ND
		NICKEL	N	2005	N/A	3-ND
		PHOSPHORUS, DISSOLVED	N	2015	N/A	3-ND
		PH	N	2015	2015	3-PAS LOW
Fish Consumption	4A-M	TURBIDITY	N	2015	2015	3-PAS
		ZINC	N	2005	N/A	3-ND
		COPPER	N	2005	N/A	3-ND
Fish Consumption	4A-M	MERCURY - FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY	N	2005	N/A	4A-M
		NICKEL	N	2005	N/A	3-ND
Potential Drinking Water Supply	2-G	ZINC	N	2005	N/A	3-ND
		COPPER	N	2005	N/A	3-ND
		ESCHERICHIA COLI	N	2004	2004	3-ND
Primary Contact Recreation	3-PAS	NICKEL	N	2005	N/A	3-ND
		ZINC	N	2005	N/A	3-ND
Secondary Contact Recreation	3-ND	CHLOROPHYLL-A	N	2015	N/A	3-ND
		ESCHERICHIA COLI	N	2004	N/A	3-ND
Wildlife	3-ND	ESCHERICHIA COLI	N	2004	N/A	3-ND



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Some examples
of how water
quality standards
get applied



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