



Connecticut River Joint Commissions
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CRJC Headwaters Subcommittee Annual Report - 2019

The Headwaters Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets quarterly and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by participating municipalities. Current members of Vermont are Tom Caron from Canaan, with openings in Lemington, Bloomfield, Brunswick, and Maidstone; Current members of New Hampshire are Alan R. Williams from Pittsburg, Alan R. Karg from Clarksville, Kevin McKinnon from Colebrook, Kenneth Hastings and Lucas Deblois from Columbia, Jamie Sayen and Clayton Macdonald from Stratford, Ed Mellett and Dale Covey from Northumberland, and openings in Stewartstown. Those with only one representative have an opening for a second volunteer.

The Subcommittee provides a local voice to help steward the resources on or affecting a portion of the Connecticut River, particularly on topics related to the maintenance of good water quality and wildlife habitat. Meeting and events are open to the public. The Subcommittee is one of five that make up the Connecticut River Joint Commissions since 1989. Specific responsibilities include providing feedback to NH Department of Environmental Services, VT Agency of Natural Resources and municipalities on matters pertaining to the river; reviewing and commenting on proposed permits and plans; and maintaining a corridor management plan.

The Subcommittee stayed updated on a number of issues including dam management and the FERC relicensing process, and projects by the Connecticut River Conservancy. The Subcommittee reviewed and commented on a series of permits. The work for an expedited culvert and stream application in Colebrook was supported except for the use of glyphosphate to manage invasive species vegetation. Similarly, a comment letter was submitted on a special permit to apply pesticides to a riparian area in Pittsburg. The letter requested the use of manual or mechanical management, rather than chemical controls. The LRS has reviewed and made no comment for permits to build a new home and septic system in Clarksville, as well as, a modified drainage system off a lumber yard in Northumberland. In April, Ken Edwardson of the NHDES Water Quality Assessment Program and Jillian Kilborn of NH Fish and Game presented on local issues. In August, the LRS received a presentation on Murphy dam from Jim Gallagher of NHDES. The Subcommittee plans to further discuss a standard stance on the use of pesticides and associated compounds in the Headwaters region. This Winter, members plan to learn about and discuss the Vermont basin management plan update. NHDES has shared legislative changes to the wetlands permit and is expected to share guidelines for implementation in December 2019.

If you or someone in your community is interested in learning about or contributing to river conservation issues in the region or serving as a liaison to the Headwaters Subcommittee, please contact our staff support Olivia Uyizeye at ouyizeye@uvlsrpc.org to learn more.