

Connecticut River Joint Commissions 10 Water Street, Suite 225 Lebanon, NH 03766 (603) 727-9484 http://www.crjc.org

## CRJC Wantastiquet Subcommittee Annual Report - 2019

The Wantastiquet Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets every two months and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by participating municipalities. Current members of Vermont are Paul Harlow and Jim Calchera from Westminster, Joe Grutta from Putney, Daniel Mark and Jack Lilly from Dummerston, Kathy Urffer and Michael Fairchild from Brattleboro, and Andy White from Vernon. Current members of New Hampshire are Samantha Loch from Walpole, Perry Sawyer from Westmoreland, Roland Vollbehr from Chesterfield, and Joe Conroy from Hinsdale. 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 up to date on a number of issues, including dam management and the FERC relicensing process. The Subcommittee reviewed and commented on a series of permits. A permit has been reviewed from West Chesterfield for a new home and septic system where representatives encouraged the following of best management practices. Comments have been given and reviewed on work proposed for a gas station in West Chesterfield. The Subcommittee is continuing their involvement with the existing bridges subcommittee, in relation to the replacement of the Hinsdale-Brattleboro bridge. Members are particularly interested in construction impacts, educational signage, river walk and rail trail connectivity. The Subcommittee is considering a water quality monitoring pilot on the Connecticut River in coordination with both New Hampshire and Vermont state programs. The Subcommittee was given a tour at the Westmoreland nursing home community water and sewer systems that are connected in to the River. 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 Wantastiquet Subcommittee, please contact our staff support Olivia Uyizeye at <a href="mailto:ourstaff">ourstaff</a> support Olivia U