



***Connecticut River Joint Commissions – FY 2021 Annual Report
July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021***

Suite 225, 10 Water St., Lebanon, NH 03766.

Website at <https://tinyurl.com/9khrwevx>

The Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) is a bi-state commission dedicated to helping preserve the visual, ecological, and working landscape of the Connecticut River Valley while encouraging and maintaining economic viability throughout the region. With its 20-person full commission board and its five local river subcommittees (representing an additional 100 volunteers) the CRJC strives to help guide proposed watershed activities by initiating, reviewing, and commenting on a wide variety of projects and regulatory proposals such as shoreland protection, energy issues and clean water initiatives. While the Vermont and New Hampshire Commissioners and the local subcommittee volunteers often focus on independent river-based initiatives, they are all united in a shared regard and reverence for the Connecticut River, the surrounding landscape, and the regional ecosystem. This shared spirit of cooperation allows them to identify and share collaborative efforts that help safeguard the Valley.

In FY 2021 the CRJC contacted and engaged policy makers and planners from both states and the public to research and address issues such as:

- Climate Migration in the CT River Valley
- FERC hydro-power dam relicensing
- River basin planning
- River recreational concerns and opportunities
- Local and regional funding sources for economic growth
- Strengthening and supporting the Local River Subcommittees and their work



For a separate list of Local River Subcommittee locations and their 2021 activities, please email Olivia Uyizeye ouyizeye@uvlsrc.org

This commitment to bi-state interaction and sharing best practices is an integral component of the CRJC's longstanding Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan and its current 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. The strategic plan builds on over 30 years of experience in engaging communities in the Connecticut River Valley and outlines the CRJC's anticipated projects for the next five years. The actions proposed in this plan leverage the group's strongest assets: the passion and commitment of its volunteer members and its statutorily enabled purpose and connection to state government.

This multifaceted and collaborative work is exemplified within the Climate Migration project. This project addresses the widely accepted theory that the Connecticut River Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire will see substantial growth related to migration from metropolitan areas to our east and south driven by climate change and sea level rise as well as the current pandemic. It is anticipated that the need for facilitated cooperation and coordination between state and local entities and outside

organizations and educational institutions to research and address this growth and development within the watershed will increase exponentially in the coming years. The CRJC is consulting on an upcoming webinar with state and local planners, real estate experts, the Conservation Law Foundation, and Antioch University to determine the extent of this migration and the likely short and long-term impacts of climate migration growth on the region.

We are pleased that both Vermont and New Hampshire have again agreed to fund and sustain the CRJC as we move forward on this array of projects. State funding allows the CRJC to continue serving communities of the Valley by helping to guide growth and development in a way that conserves landscape integrity and the use of its natural resources while addressing individual town issues such as housing, land connectivity, energy needs, and revenue. The CRJC is well-situated to play a convening and advocating role and understands that this work is most effective in partnership with existing organizations and initiatives. The CRJC values connection, advocacy, and mutual support, and is dedicated to elevating collective efforts and collaborating with interested partners.

In the coming year, the CRJC will:

- Update the CRJC website to make it more easily accessible and informative
- Convene stakeholders to gather input on Tactical Basin Plans in Vermont
- Help create activities on water quality priorities with each of the five Local River Subcommittees
- Produce a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Biennial Local River Subcommittee report
- Convene VT & NH State staff to discuss coordination and management of the Connecticut River

A copy of the complete CRJC strategic plan can be viewed on the CRJC website. The CRJC acknowledges the funding assistance of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to complete the strategic plan and the facilitation of Emily Davis of Brattleboro, Vermont.

The following individuals comprise the current Executive Committee of the Joint Commissions: Steve Lembke, President (VT); Jennifer Griffin, Vice President (NH); Jason Rasmussen, Secretary/Treasurer (VT); Ken Hastings, (NH); Marie Caduto (VT); and Ted Cooley (NH).

If you would like more information on any of our 2021 CRJC or Local River Subcommittee projects, or if you are interested in assisting us with this important work, please e-mail us at contact@crjc.org. The Commission and subcommittees currently have openings available for residents of both New Hampshire and Vermont. We would be happy to share information on becoming a commission or subcommittee member and the appointment process.

For general information on the CRJC see <https://tinyurl.com/9khrwevx>



Connecticut River Joint Commissions
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Connecticut River – Headwaters Subcommittee Annual Report – 2021

The Headwaters Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets quarterly and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by participating municipalities, with allowance for alternates. During early 2021, meetings were virtual due to emergency orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since July 2021, the Subcommittee has transitioned to a hybrid meeting format where a quorum of members is required to be present in person. Current members of Vermont are Tom Caron from Canaan, with openings in Lemington, Bloomfield, Brunswick, and Maidstone. Current members of New Hampshire are Kevin McKinnon from Colebrook, Kenneth Hastings and Lucas Deblois from Columbia, Ed Mellett and Dale Covey from Northumberland, Alan R. Williams from Pittsburg, Clayton Macdonald from Stratford, Ronnie Howell from Clarksville, and openings in Stewartstown. During 2021, Ed Mellett from Northumberland served as chair. Those with only one representative have an opening for a second volunteer.

Headwaters is one of the five subcommittees a part of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions since 1989. The Subcommittees provide a local voice to help steward the resources on or affecting the Connecticut River, particularly on topics related to the maintenance of good water quality and wildlife habitat. Specific responsibilities include providing feedback on matters pertaining to the river to NH Department of Environmental Services, VT Agency of Natural Resources, and municipalities. Feedback covers comment on proposed permits and plans, and maintaining a corridor management plan. Meetings and events are open to the public.

During 2021, Headwaters engaged on a number of issues. Projects that were reviewed include the Lyman Falls Dam and Wyoming Dam removals, a floodplain restoration project in Colebrook, and maintenance work at Murphy dam. Headwaters continues to monitor a FEMA study and update being done in their region. In addition, Headwaters received held conversations about the draft Upper Connecticut River VT tactical basin plan as well as a potential conservation/restoration plan by the Nature Conservancy for the Gray Mist Farm area.

Headwaters also supported outreach efforts in service of the Connecticut River, including the distribution of an information article about the Headwaters region and participation in a new virtual speaker series (available on YouTube) that delved into conversations about river wildlife corridors, invasive species, climate migration, water quality, and a history of our River.

During 2022, Headwaters will continue their activities in management, outreach, and learning for the Connecticut River. Members welcome local participation in permit reviews, the speaker series, and water quality monitoring. If you are interested to learn more, please contact our staff support Olivia Uyizeye at ouyizeye@uvlsrpc.org.



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Connecticut River – Riverbend Subcommittee Annual Report – 2021

The Riverbend Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets every two months and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by participating municipalities, with allowance for alternates. During early 2021, meetings were virtual due to emergency orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since July 2021, the Subcommittee has transitioned to a hybrid meeting format where a quorum of members is required to be present in person. Current members of Vermont are Bill Graves and John Fairchild from Barnet, Deborah Noble from Concord, Scott Labun from Newbury, Mary Dole from Ryegate, William Piper from Waterford, and openings in Guildhall & Lunenburg. Current members of New Hampshire are Rick Walling from Bath, Michael Crosby and Gal Potashnick from Dalton, Pauline Corzilius and Lewis Dale from Haverhill, Rob Christie from Lancaster, Jim Sherrard and Jan Edick from Littleton, and Ken Hunter from Monroe. During 2021, Rick Walling from Bath served as chair. Those with one representative have an opening for a second volunteer.

Riverbend is one of the five subcommittees a part of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions since 1989. The Subcommittees provide a local voice to help steward the resources on or affecting the Connecticut River, particularly on topics related to the maintenance of good water quality and wildlife habitat. Specific responsibilities include providing feedback on matters pertaining to the river to NH Department of Environmental Services, VT Agency of Natural Resources, and municipalities. Feedback covers comment on proposed permits and plans, and maintaining a corridor management plan. Meetings and events are open to the public.

During 2021, Riverbend engaged on a number of issues. Projects that were reviewed include a standard dredge and fill permit on the Portland Pipeline in Lancaster, renewal for a minor NPDES discharge permits for the Ryegate Fire District 2, invasive species management with Rodeo and Milestone across the Riverbend region, and a shoreland permit for a new driveway and home in Littleton. Riverbend continues to monitor a FEMA study and update being done in Riverbend towns Lancaster and Lunenburg. In addition, Riverbend received information on and provided feedback for the draft Upper Connecticut River VT tactical basin plan.

Riverbend also supported outreach efforts in service of the Connecticut River, including the distribution of an information article about the Riverbend region and participation in a new virtual speaker series (available on YouTube) that delved into conversations about river wildlife corridors, invasive species, climate migration, water quality, and a history of our River. Further, Riverbend contributed to water quality monitoring efforts along the Connecticut River.

During 2022, Riverbend will continue their activities in management, outreach, and learning for the Connecticut River. Members welcome local participation in permit reviews, the speaker series, and water quality monitoring. If you are interested to learn more, please contact our staff support Olivia Uyizeye at ouyizeye@uvlsrpc.org.



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Connecticut River – Upper Valley Subcommittee Annual Report – 2021

The Upper Valley Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets every two months and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by participating municipalities, with allowance for alternates. During early 2021, meetings were virtual due to emergency orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since July 2021, the Subcommittee has transitioned to a hybrid meeting format where a quorum of members is required to be present in person. Current members of Vermont are Ben Dana from Fairlee; Lynn Bohi and David Barrell from Hartford; Bill Bridge and Linda Matteson from Thetford; Chet Clem from Norwich; and openings in Bradford. Current members of New Hampshire are Alice Creagh from Hanover; Ruth Bleyler, Eric Agterberg and Bruce Garland (alternate) from Lebanon; Bill Malcolm from Lyme; Carl Schmidt and Edmond Cooley from Orford; and Karyn Brown and Helga Mueller from Piermont. During 2021, Bill Malcolm from Hanover served as chair and Tara Bamford of Thetford (recently resigned) served as vice-chair. Those communities with one representative have an opening for a second volunteer.

Upper Valley is one of the five subcommittees a part of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions since 1989. The Subcommittees provide a local voice to help steward the resources on or affecting the Connecticut River, particularly on topics related to the maintenance of good water quality and wildlife habitat. Specific responsibilities include providing feedback on matters pertaining to the river to NH Department of Environmental Services, VT Agency of Natural Resources, and municipalities. Feedback covers comment on proposed permits and plans, and maintaining a corridor management plan. Meetings and events are open to the public.

During 2021, Upper Valley engaged on a number of issues. Projects that were reviewed include a Romano circle wetlands permit in Lebanon, preliminary plans for a bridge replacement near the Westboro railyard in Lebanon, the draining of a pool in Lyme with comments focused on chlorination and pH levels, herbicide use at sites in multiple towns, livestock crossings in Piermont, and rehabilitation work at the Lyme-Thetford Bridge. Upper Valley continues to follow the renewal of the Great River Hydro FERC license for three Connecticut River dams. In addition, Upper Valley has engaged in discussion on the topic of climate migration with students from Antioch University who researched the topic as it relates to the Connecticut River Valley.

Upper Valley also supported outreach efforts in service of the Connecticut River, including the distribution of an information article about the Upper Valley region and participation in a new virtual speaker series that has delved into conversations about river wildlife corridors, invasive species, water quality, and a history of our River. Further, Upper Valley contributed to water quality monitoring efforts along the Connecticut River.

During 2022, Upper Valley will continue their activities in management, outreach, and learning for the Connecticut River. Members welcome local participation in permit reviews, the speaker series, and water quality monitoring. If you are interested to learn more, please contact our staff support Olivia Uyizeye at uyizeye@uvlsrpc.org.



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Connecticut River – Mount Ascutney Subcommittee Annual Report – 2021

The Mount Ascutney Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets every two months and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by participating municipalities, with allowance for alternates. During early 2021, meetings were virtual due to emergency orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since July 2021, the Subcommittee has transitioned to a hybrid meeting format where a quorum of members is required to be present in person. Current members of Vermont are Cordelia Merritt and Judy Howland from Hartland, Thomas Hernon and Margaret Perry from Rockingham, William Manner and Kelly Stettner from Springfield, Howard Beach from Weathersfield, and Michael Metivier from Windsor. Current members of New Hampshire are Janice Lambert and John Streeter from Charlestown, Matt Maki from Claremont, Colleen O'Neill and Bill Gallagher from Cornish, and Elise Angelillo and David Taylor from Plainfield. During 2021, David Taylor from Plainfield served as chair. Those with only one representative have an opening for a second volunteer.

Mount Ascutney is one of the five subcommittees a part of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions since 1989. The Subcommittees provide a local voice to help steward the resources on or affecting the Connecticut River, particularly on topics related to the maintenance of good water quality and wildlife habitat. Specific responsibilities include providing feedback on matters pertaining to the river to NH Department of Environmental Services, VT Agency of Natural Resources, and municipalities. Feedback covers comment on proposed permits and plans, and maintaining a corridor management plan. Meetings and events are open to the public.

During 2021, Mount Ascutney engaged on a number of issues. Permits that were reviewed include those related to an herbicide permit for the Cornish bridge and maintenance for the Ashley Ferry Boat landing in Claremont. Mount Ascutney also provided comments to the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission on the Natural Resource chapter of the regional plan, promoted septic smart week through existing online educational materials, discussed water quality concerns from the use of different herbicides, and continues to follow the renewal of the Great River Hydro FERC license for three Connecticut River dams.

Mount Ascutney also supported outreach efforts in service of the Connecticut River, including the distribution of an information article about the Mount Ascutney region and participation in a new virtual speaker series (available on YouTube) that delved into conversations about river wildlife corridors, invasive species, climate migration, water quality, and a history of our River. Further, Mount Ascutney contributed to water quality monitoring efforts along the Connecticut River.

During 2022, Mount Ascutney will continue their activities in management, outreach, and learning for the Connecticut River. Members welcome local participation in permit reviews, the speaker series, and water quality monitoring. If you are interested to learn more, please contact our staff support Olivia Uyizeye at ouyizeye@uvlsrc.org.



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Connecticut River – Wantastiquet Subcommittee Annual Report – 2021

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, with allowance for alternates. During early 2021, meetings were virtual due to emergency orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since July 2021, the Subcommittee has transitioned to a hybrid meeting format where a quorum of members is required to be present in person. Current members of Vermont are Kathy Urffer and Michael Fairchild from Brattleboro, Daniel Marx from Dummerston, Andy White from Vernon, Paul Harlow and Jim Calchera from Westminster, and openings in Putney. Current members of New Hampshire are Roland Volbehre from Chesterfield, Mike Darcy from Hinsdale, Samantha Loch and Paul Reyns from Walpole, and Perry Sawyer from Westmoreland. During 2021, Perry Sawyer from Westmoreland served as chair. Those with one representative have an opening for a second volunteer.

Wantastiquet is one of the five subcommittees a part of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions since 1989. The Subcommittees provide a local voice to help steward the resources on or affecting the Connecticut River, particularly on topics related to the maintenance of good water quality and wildlife habitat. Specific responsibilities include providing feedback on matters pertaining to the river to NH Department of Environmental Services, VT Agency of Natural Resources, and municipalities. Feedback covers comment on proposed permits and plans, and maintaining a corridor management plan. Meetings and events are open to the public.

During 2021, Wantastiquet engaged on a number of issues. Permits that were reviewed include those related to upgrades and signage on the Hinsdale-Brattleboro bridge, the renewal of an NPDES minor discharge permit for the Putney Paper Mill, a discharge permit for VTrans in Brattleboro, and a new water infrastructure project in Walpole. Wantastiquet also received a presentation on the renewal of Great River Hydro FERC license for three Connecticut River dams, still in process.

Wantastiquet also supported outreach efforts in service of the Connecticut River, including the distribution of an information article about the Wantastiquet region and participation in a new virtual speaker series (available on YouTube) that delved into conversations about river wildlife corridors, invasive species, climate migration, water quality, and a history of our River. Further, Wantastiquet continued and expanded upon their water quality monitoring efforts at five sites along the Connecticut River.

During 2022, Wantastiquet will continue their activities in management, outreach, and learning for the Connecticut River. Members welcome local participation in permit reviews, the speaker series, and water quality monitoring. If you are interested to learn more, please contact our staff support Olivia Uyizeye at ouyizeye@uvlsrpc.org.