



Connecticut River Joint Commissions – FY 2020 Annual Report
July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020
Suite 225, 10 Water St., Lebanon, NH 03766.
Website at <http://www.crjc.org>

CRJC continues its mission to preserve the visual and ecological integrity and working landscape of the Connecticut River Valley. With five local subcommittees and over 100 volunteers, CRJC is guiding the watershed’s growth by reviewing and commenting on hydro-electric dam relicensing, regulatory proposals, shoreland protection, and initiatives on clean water.

CRJC continues to bring policy makers from both states and the public together to keep them abreast of the issues facing the Connecticut River Watershed. This year CRJC engaged with the “Rails-to-Trails Conservancy” who envisions a connected trail network of roads and highways throughout northern New England. There are 60 miles along the Connecticut River in both New Hampshire and Vermont that the Conservancy believes might be identified as part of a trails network.

CRJC completed a Strategic Plan 2020-2025 which builds on over 30 years of experience in engaging communities in the Connecticut River Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire in a “shared commitment to safeguard a good place and a good life.” (Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan, 1997)

The CRJC is a quasi-governmental organization composed of Governor-appointed and designated Commissioners from Vermont and New Hampshire, and the parent organization to five Local River Subcommittees. They may represent different interests, but are united in a shared regard of the Connecticut River, the surrounding landscape, and the ecosystem as a whole. Together, they identify and pursue collaborative efforts that safeguard the Valley.

We anticipate the Connecticut River Valley 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. The need for facilitated cooperation and coordination between the two states on development within the watershed will only increase. The actions proposed in this plan leverage the group’s strongest assets: the passion and commitment of the volunteer members and Commissioners, and its statutorily-enabled purpose and connection to state government.



In the short term, these strategic leverage points will build internal capacity to help sustain the organization. Over time and amidst those global challenges, the CRJC intends to continue serving communities of the Valley by helping to guide the growth and development in a way that conserves landscape integrity and stewards the use of its natural resources. 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 therefore dedicated to elevating collective efforts and collaborating with like-minded partners.

A copy of the full plan can be viewed or downloaded here: http://www.crjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CRJC_StrategicPlan_FINAL.pdf

CRJC gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to complete the strategic plan and the facilitation of Emily Davis of Brattleboro, Vermont.

The current Executive Committee of the Joint Commissions are; Lionel Chute, President (NH); Christopher Company, Vice President (VT); Jennifer Griffin, Treasurer (NH); Jason Rasmussen, Secretary (VT); Ken Hastings, (NH); Marie Caduto (VT); and Steven Lembke, Immediate Past President (VT). The Commission currently has several openings available for residents of both New Hampshire and Vermont. For more information on responsibilities and the appointment process e-mail contact@crjc.org

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