



Connecticut River Joint Commissions
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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@uvlsrc.org.