

DRAFT

Minutes of Connecticut River Assembly Meeting

**Wethersfield Town Hall
505 Silas Deane Highway
Wethersfield, CT 06109**

October 13, 2011

Attendance:

Members

Joseph Smith, Chairman	Wethersfield
Richard Frawley	Windsor Locks
Joseph Morin	Cromwell
Steve Sorrow	Suffield
Leigh Standish (alt.)	Wethersfield

Others

Mary Ellen Kowalewski CRCOG

Joseph Smith called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Since a quorum of members was not present, this would be an informational meeting with no actions taken.

Adoption of Minutes: May 12, 2011

No action due to lack of a quorum.

Aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene: Municipal Reports

- Windsor Locks experienced some flooding that required the pumping of basements.
- Cromwell—noted that flooding was at the level of a high spring freshet.
- Wethersfield—river peaked at 22.5 feet in Wethersfield Cove, also like a typical spring freshet. Residents are experiencing many more floods of this level throughout the year than was the case in the past.
- Suffield—flood heights rose to 47 feet. Did not need to close the canal trail. Biggest issue after the flood is the need to clean the river banks of extensive debris.
- Enfield—Bill Garner could not attend the meeting, but did share pictures of flooding in Enfield.

Update on MA/CT Lower Connecticut River Joint Commission Project: Report on Small Grant Activities

Ms. Kowalewski passed out and reviewed a written summary of work completed under this grant. In the Capitol Region, projects were as follows: East Hartford kayak purchase for recreation and educational programs; Enfield's Barnes Boat Launch Signage Project; and Goodwin College Native Vegetation and Restoration Project.

Discussion of Agenda for November 10, 2011 CRA Meeting—USGS Presentation

Members discussed the topics that they would like to discuss with the USGS representative. There was interest in learning more about the datum on which river height measurements are

based. There was also interest in discussing, either with USGS or FEMA, what the differences are between 100 or 500 year flood levels, and 100 or 500 year storms.

Report on Municipal Issues and Activities

Members asked if there are new plans for the foundry site in Rocky Hill—people present were not sure.

Mr. Sorrow reported that there had been a fire at the Babylon waste facility in Suffield. There was concern that contaminants may have drained into the Windsor Locks Canal. This could be an issue for the Alstrom Plant in Windsor Locks, as they produce medical supplies and depend on clean water in the canal.

Mr. Standish suggested that the CRA perhaps discuss the Haddam land swap—and how it relates to the State's role as a good steward of the land. Groups that are taking an active role in opposing this swap are the Board of Directors of the Mattabessee Audubon Society and the Sierra Club.

Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.