CONNECTICUT RIVER CONSERVANCY

Board of Trustees Meeting

March 9, 2018

11:00 – 2:30

Olver Transportation Center

Greenfield, MA

Attendees:

Trustees: Liz Austin, Humphrey Tyler, David Mears, Melody Foti, Bob Moore, Tim Keeney, Melissa Ocana (phone), Lora Wondolowski, Kate Putnam, Astrid Hanzalek (Honorary, by phone),

Absent: Dave Hewitt, Annette Spaulding, Ron Poltak

Staff: Andrew Fisk, Colleen Bent, Phil Gilfeather-Girton, Ron Rhodes, Andrea Donlon

Guest: Julie Goodridge, Investment Advisor (by phone)

The meeting was convened at 11:00.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held for 30 minutes following introductions and welcome.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: To accept the items as submitted with the exclusion of the minutes which were inadvertently for the September, rather than December meeting . Kate/Lora on the motion; unanimous.

D. STRATEGIC PLAN DASHBOARD REPORT

Andy and Lora reviewed the dashboard report and noted that the Strategic Planning Committee has been discussing how to refine the color-coding for the report. Andy reviewed several specific elements of the dashboard. There was general agreement that this was a useful tool and the Board would continue to refine and calibrate its use.

E. NOMINATIONS

Lora presented the work to date on the slate of potential candidates for the Board. It was noted that a class of three or four Trustees was the target and that current Trustees were encouraged to provide names of possible candidates to the Committee, using the nomination form that Lora circulated to the full Board. A slate of candidates needs to be presented to the full Board at the May meeting for their ratification and subsequent submission to the full membership at the Annual Celebration in June.

F. BY-LAWS REVISION

Liz reviewed the status of the by-laws revisions and noted the areas of significant changes. The Board discussed several additional changes while supporting the overall direction that the draft was taking. The next step is to submit the draft for legal review. Liz and Andy would be working on this in order to bring the final version to the May board meeting for ratification to submit to the full membership at the Annual Celebration in June.

G. FINANCE REPORT

Andy and Phil reviewed the year-to-date financial statements indicating the status of income and expenditures for the operating budget as well as the endowment report.

MOTION: To accept the year-to-date financial report. Melody/Kate on the motion; unanimous

Julie Goodridge, our investment advisor reviewed the details of our portfolio and the fund performance as well as some of the firm’s recent shareholder advocacy regarding the human right to water. There was discussion and questions from the Board. The Board was encouraged by the manner in which North Star is managing our funds.

Colleen Bent presented the Spring 2018 development campaign and provided the Trustees with their assignments to help in reaching our $45,000 goal.

Andy provided an update on the status of the Campaign for Our Rivers and how it would be managed during the period of Corey’s maternity leave.

H. LUNCH & LEARN – DO RIVERS HAVE RIGHTS?

David Mears led a discussion on the evolving legal theory of whether inanimate natural resources have legal rights and standings in various countries legal systems.

I. LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM REPORT

Andy reviewed the overall status of the land conservation program and the present roster of pending transactions. There was particular discussion about the ad hoc LCP committee coming together to evaluate how our fee-ownerships might be transferred, including responding to the recurring proposal from the owners of the in-holding at Spaulding Pond regarding the dam reconstruction. Their attorney has sent us a letter restating their current proposal, which we have continued to reject.

J. PROGRAM REVIEW – RESTORATION

Andy and Ron reviewed how the restoration program has developed over the last several years including how projects are initiated, funded, and evaluated.

K. HYDROPOWER RELICENSING

Andy and Andrea discussed the current status of the hydropower relicensing on the Connecticut River mainstem with particular focus on the settlement negotiations for the MA facilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm

Prepared by: Colleen Bent and Andrew Fisk

Reviewed by: Humphrey Tyler