



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Removing Deadbeat Dams – Restoring our Rivers & our Communities

The Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) will meet on Monday, August 21, 2017 at 2:00 P.M. at the West Windsor Town Hall (aka Story Memorial Hall), 22 Hartland–Brownsville Road, West Windsor, VT. All members of the public are invited to attend.

The meeting will feature a presentation about current and future dam removal projects in NH and VT; inform about who is doing them and why; and what benefits we all get from these river restoration activities. Presenters Ron Rhodes, River Steward with the Connecticut River Conservancy and Brian Fitzgerald, Dam Project Coordinator at the Vermont Natural Resources Council will share their experiences working on several Vermont river dam removal and restoration projects and the benefits to the watershed and habitat that follow.

New Hampshire's Connecticut River Valley Resource Commission, created by the legislature in 1987, and Vermont's Connecticut River Watershed Advisory Commission, similarly created in 1988, was directed to cooperate with each other to preserve and protect the resources of the Connecticut River Valley, and to guide its growth and development. They have met together as the Joint Commissions since 1989.

Both Commissions are advisory and focus on advocacy and education to ensure public involvement in decisions which affect their river and their valley. For more information about CRJC, please visit the website at <http://www.crjc.org>.

Directions: West Windsor Town Hall (aka Story Memorial Hall), 22 Hartland–Brownsville Road, West Windsor, VT 05089. It is located at the intersection of VT Route 44 and the Hartland–Brownsville Road. Take Interstate 91 in Vermont to Exit 9 if coming the north or Exit 8 if coming from the south.

## **Presenters:**

**Ron Rhodes** joined CRC in 2011 as one of our River Stewards. He spends most of his time removing old dams, planting trees and working with our partners in NH & VT, an area he knows well from his years as a licensed NH fishing guide and his decade of service on the boards of the Greater Upper Valley chapter of Trout Unlimited and the White River Partnership. Ron also taught the Fly Fishing class at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. Ron is a graduate of Wittenberg University in Springfield, OH where he majored in Political Science and Economics. Prior to moving to the Upper Valley, where he lives with his wife Betsy and their bird dog Kaylea. Ron worked in politics and government in Washington D.C. and Ohio.

**Brian Fitzgerald** (B.T.) is the Dam Project Coordinator & Vermont Dam Task Force Coordinator for Vermont Natural Resources Council, a position he has held since 2014. For seventeen years prior to VNRC, he worked in and later led the Streamflow Protection Program at the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, where his responsibilities included regulation of hydroelectric projects and water withdrawals, environmental review of dam projects and dam removal. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology and ecology from the State University of New York – College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse. In his spare time, he enjoys exploring mountains and wild places on foot and by boat, birding, and reading about rivers and history.