

MINUTES

Members Present:	M. Davis, E. King, C. Rittenhouse, M. Soares, and W. Ouimet
Members Absent:	A. Bowman, J. Knighton
Alternates Present:	Emlyn Resetarits
Alternates Absent:	
Staff Present:	M. Stankov

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Soares called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Members present are M. Davis, E. King, C. Rittenhouse, M. Soares, and W. Ouimet, and alternate E. Resetarits. Alternate Resetarits is seated for absent member Bowman.

The Commission welcomes E. Resetarits as an alternate.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rittenhouse MOVED, Ouimet seconded approval of the January 21, 2026, minutes as presented.

Motion PASSED (5-0-1) with Resetarits abstaining.

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

A. No member of public present.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Water Quality Sampling

Brief report from Stankov. More clarifications from Legal are needed. A case law study has been requested. This item will be carried to a future meeting while we await those clarifications.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Application of the Town of Mansfield, Department of Public Works, for Replacement of Bridge over Fenton River on Gurleyville Road (IWA File #1641)

Stankov introduced the project, including location, fund sources, and the proposed work. Proposed for 2027.

Some questions that arose:

Is the current span of 42' with bank-full width of 41.5 feet under the bridge? What is the natural bank-full width as measured upstream and downstream of the bridge?

What is the finished span and bank-full width? The design appears to be 1.2x 41.5 feet = 49.8 feet. So the span and the bank-full width are the same in the finished design?

Is the 28' river width between coffer dams appropriate for expected water volume during a large rainfall event? What size rainfall event is this designed to handle?

Any recollections or lessons learned from the Stone Mill Road bridge replacement at the Gristville Mill?

Several commission members have observed wood turtles at the project site and in the project area. The NDDB determination specifies protections for wood turtles that should be adhered to.

What is the anticipated project duration? Duration of wetland/river impacts (e.g., coffer dams)?

Rittenhouse MOVED, King seconded that the project as proposed would not have a significant negative impact to Fenton River and nearby wetlands provided proper erosion and sedimentation measures are employed during deconstruction and construction, and those control measures are removed after the river and banks have stabilized. The Commission notes: consider the timing of the project to minimize water flow and to minimize NDDB impacts; and an appreciation for the effort to retain a span over the brook and restore the streambed and banks.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

A. Soares plans to attend the CAWS meeting (see future dates)

7. COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were noted:

A. Train Derailment along Willimantic River

Awaiting clarification on wetland impacts and restoration process. Stankov was on site today.

B. here

FUTURE MEETINGS

CT Association of Wetlands Scientists Annual Meeting, Wednesday, March 4, 2026,
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, Aqua Turf Club, 556 Mulberry St, Southington, CT 06479

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission is scheduled for March 18, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to read "CWR Rittenhouse" in a cursive style.

Chadwick Rittenhouse
Secretary