

Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015



The Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission, established September 8, 1953 when the signatory states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont ratified the Compact which states, in Article I:

The principal purposes of this Compact are:

- a) To promote inter-state comity among and between the signatory states;
- b) To assure adequate storage capacity for impounding waters of the Connecticut River and its tributaries for the protection of life and property from floods;
- c) To provide a joint or common agency through which the signatory states, while promoting protecting and preserving to each the local interest and sovereignty of the respective signatory states, may more effectively cooperate in accomplishing the object of flood control and water resources utilization in the basin of the Connecticut River and its tributaries.

OFFICERS OF THE
CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
AS OF JUNE 30, 2015

Michael Misslin, Chairman
Gary Moore, Vice Chairman
Angela Mrozinski, Administrator

MEMBERS OF THE
CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
AS OF JUNE 30, 2015

Connecticut

Denise Ruzicka, East Haddam, CT
Barbara J. Ruhe, Wethersfield, CT
Jason Bowsza, Broad Brook, CT

Massachusetts

Michael Misslin, Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, Boston, MA
Linda Hutchins, Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, Boston, MA
Carl Gustafson, Hadley, MA

New Hampshire

Robert G. Kline, Plainfield, NH
Robert Grimley, Grantham, NH
Linda Tanner, Georges Mills, NH

Vermont

Evan Hammond, Lunenburg, VT
Gary Moore, Bradford, VT
Timothy O'Connor, Jr, Brattleboro, VT

OFFICE ADDRESS

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Decades after its creation, the Commission continues to evolve and grow in order to address current watershed issues and the environmental factors affecting the Connecticut River and its surrounding watershed. Events of the past year have impacted the Commission staffing, as we welcomed new Commissioners Linda Tanner from New Hampshire and Tim O'Connor from Vermont. Carl Gustafson, the retired NRCS State Engineer for Massachusetts, has joined as the third Massachusetts state member on the Commission. The second and third Massachusetts members were expected to have long term appointments before the Governor departed office in January 2015 but that, unfortunately, did not occur and Governor Baker's office has been requested to approve the formal appointments.

The Commission continues to discuss amending elements of the Compact bylaws to reflect current operating conditions and to include such changes as allowing the Commission to meet remotely using currently available technologies.

The Commission continues to discuss and explore the issue of equitable payment in lieu of taxes (so called PILOT payments) for Federal flood control facilities (lands and dams) constructed to provide interstate flood control benefits. Most recently, an inquiry concerning this issue was received from Townshend, Vermont. A response letter outlining the Commission's position will be composed and sent to the community.

As the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission initiates relicensing of several hydroelectric dams and issues preliminary and final licenses for the development of additional power development on the Connecticut River and its tributary watercourses, the Commission will monitor these activities closely to ensure the principal purposes of the Compact are addressed equitably. Similarly, where FERC is considering the construction of additional gas delivery pipelines across the Connecticut River and its tributaries, the Commission will monitor these developments for the inclusion of adequate environmental safeguards at crossing points.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael D. Misslin, Chairman
Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission

SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETINGS HELD DURING THE PERIOD OF THIS REPORT

September 19, 2014

NOTE: There is not a quorum, therefore this meeting is informational in nature.

Acceptance of June 20, 2014 meeting minutes waived until next meeting.

NH: Bob Grimley will contact the governor's office after the election. VT: Bill indicated he would stay on until there has been another appointment. Gary Moore has been in touch with the state regarding the open position. MA: Working on getting formal appointments made for Carl Gustafson and Linda Hutchins. Mike Misslin should still be in place after the election. CT: Barbara Ruhe continues until a new appointment is made.

Plaque honoring Fred Parker's service to the Commission was passed around with a card to sign. Bob Grimley and Evan Hammond will join Fred Parker for lunch today and will bring a cake.

Discussion of Compact bylaw amendments waived until next meeting.

Response letter from insurance company was sent to all Commissioners. We have received a copy of the surety bond policy. The language about various bond policies in their letter is confusing. Contact Barbara Ruhe for her guidance on this. Possibly have insurance company or agent come explain these policies to us at a meeting.

Linda Hutchins has drafted a response letter to the Town of Townshend, VT Select Board. Commissioners reviewed and offered comment. Linda will email the letter to absent Commissioners and get electronic approval. Mike Misslin will sign and send the letter. The 'Flood Damages Prevented' spreadsheet can be sent as an addendum to the letter. Include statement in the letter explaining the method or where the benefit comes from. Mike will send administrator a digital copy.

Evan Hammond researching old annual reports and budgets to find out when all states went from \$1000 to \$2000 and the legislative authority for that.

Final FY 2013/2014 budget numbers were reviewed. Mention that any budget surplus gets transferred to the CD. This was not something that the administrator was aware and no funds have been transferred to the CD for a number of years. Vote will be taken in December to make the transfer in March, 2015 when the CD renews. Recommendation to make that a standing resolution.

CRWC invoice paid via standing resolution. CRWC Director Andrew Fisk can serve as second signature on the check in Gary Moore's absence.

Discussion of conference call/computer services including UBER, Citrix GoTo Meeting, Free Conference Call. CRWC uses Free Conference Call and Commission can try using that. Note about benefit of meeting in person occasionally.

Meeting adjourned at 11:36am. Next meeting December 5.

December 5, 2014

Gary Moore moved to accept the June 20, 2014 minutes as printed, second by Barbara Ruhe. Robert Kline abstained. Motion passed. September 19, 2014 meeting notes can be filed, no need to approve as the meeting was informational in nature only (no quorum).

NH: Robert Grimley has found someone willing to serve (Linda Tanner) and will contact the governor again. VT: Gary Moore will follow up with the state regarding the open position. Bill will stay on until there is another appointment. CT: Barbara Ruhe continues until a new appointment is made. MA: Governor Patrick will make formal appointments for Carl Gustafson and Linda Hutchins before he leaves office.

No progress has been made on updates to the Compact by-laws.

Barbara Ruhe has reviewed the letter from the insurance company regarding our surety bond. Given our modest funds, she recommends to continue our policy and existing surety bond as is.

Linda Hutchins has drafted a response letter to the Town of Townshend, VT Select Board. Commissioners reviewed and offered comment. Chairman Misslin has signed the letter. It will be sent along with the 'Flood Damages Prevented' figures.

Evan Hammond researching old annual reports and budgets to find out when all states went from \$1000 to \$2000 and the legislative authority for that. Has not found anything yet. Would need an act of the legislature or the governor's budget to make a change in payment amount. Denise Ruzicka will draft a letter to VT ANR from the Commission about this issue. Commission will review at next meeting.

Commissioners reviewed the draft Tax Loss Report. Figures in this report are based on best reported data from the towns; it is not a decision of the Commission to use old data. The following towns have not reported tax rates in recent years: Royalston & Winchendon, MA; Roxbury, NH; Townshend, VT. Barbara Ruhe moved to accept the Tax Loss Report as written, second by Evan Hammond. Motion passed.

Commissioners reviewed the draft 2013/14 Annual Report. The 2013 Tax Loss Report was mistakenly included in the 2012/13 Annual Report (should have been 2012 Tax Loss Report). The 2013 Tax Loss Report appears again in the 2013/14 Annual Report to get back on the correct schedule. Denise Ruzicka moved to approve the 2013/14 Annual Report as written, second by Barbara Ruhe. Motion passed.

CRWC invoice paid via standing resolution.

Commissioners discussed transferring budget surplus funds to the CD on a regular basis. Recommendation to keep about \$15,000 for administrative expenses, minimum of \$7,500 as a reserve in the checking account; keep what is in there for now. Discussion of better options for savings. Money Market accounts may have better earnings and are more accessible but may not be FDIC insured. Administrator will research options and report at the next meeting.

2015 Meeting Schedule: March 20, June 12, September 21, December 4

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

June 12, 2015

Angela reported on two letters received from NH Dept. of Revenue and VT Governor Shumlin.

Barbara Ruhe moved to accept the December 5, 2014 minutes as printed, second by Gary Moore. Jason Bowsza abstained. Motion passed.

NH: Linda Tanner's paperwork is complete and has been sent to governor CT: Barbara Ruhe continues until a new appointment is made. MA: Governor Patrick did not make formal appointments before leaving office. Governor Baker has promised swift action. Mike Misslin is retiring and hopes for re-appointment. Gary Moore moved to authorize Denise Ruzicka and Angela to write a letter to Massachusetts requesting appointments and explaining importance of prompt action, second by Bob Grimley. Motion passed.

No progress has been made on updates to the Compact by-laws. Revisit in December meeting.

No new information from Evan Hammond. At September meeting, review what each state is obligated to pay. Have archivist research historical files if we cannot find this info. Timothy O'Connor will talk with Evan and report back in September. Angela to include past-due amounts on next invoice.

Angela recommended not transferring funds to CD since current balance of checking acct contains recommended \$15-16k buffer funds. Commission recommended keeping funds in six month CD since interest rates could go up soon.

Angela reviewed new website. Commissioners recommend linking to USACOE NE District. Add map with links to USACOE webpages for each dam, Reservoir Regulation Team pages. Commissioners to research map options and bring map recommendations to September meeting.

Commissioners reviewed the draft 2015-2016 budget. Jason moved to accept the 2015-16 budget as written, second by Barbara. Motion passed. Angela will bring final 2014-15 budget to September meeting for review.

Gary moved to pay CRWC's invoice, second by Barbara. Motion passed.

Commissioners discussed nominating committee to elect next round of officers. Barbara moved to set Linda as the nominating committee, seconded by Bob Grimley. Motion passed.

Mike and Gary volunteer for audit committee. Ensure we are following recommendations from formal audit, review two years of invoices, bank statements and checks.

Discussion of field visit at Holyoke Fish Lift for June 2016 meeting. Denise provided update on NEIWPC updates to resiliency and climate change design standards. Mike provided update on National Weather Service releasing new rainfall data and impact on design standards, as well as update on new FEMA flood maps. Mike also provided update on gas pipelines under the CT River. Barbara suggests reviewing the Compact at December meeting for new Commissioners and good update for existing Commissioners.

Mike moved to adjourn, second by Barbara. Meeting adjourned at 11:23am.

The foregoing is a summary of the Minutes of meetings held during 2014-2015. Full minutes are available for inspection at www.crvfcc.org or by request.

Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission
Income & Expense Budget vs. Actual
July 2014 through June 2015

	ACTUAL		Budget Forecast
	Jul '14 - Jun 15	14/15 Budget	Jul 15 - Jun 16
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Total State Payments	19,000.00	19,500.00	19,500.00
Total Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	137.23	102.00	102.00
Total Income	19,137.23	19,602.00	19,602.00
Expense			
Total Contract Services	16,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Total Equip Rental and Maintenance	0.00	100.00	100.00
Operations			
Postage, Mailing Service	80.00	100.00	100.00
Printing and Copying	0.00	100.00	100.00
Supplies	0.00	100.00	100.00
Telephone, Telecommunications	80.85	100.00	100.00
Total Operations	160.85	400.00	400.00
Other Types of Expenses			
Insurance - Liability, D and O	195.00	500.00	500.00
Other Costs	237.90	200.00	200.00
Total Other Types of Expenses	432.90	700.00	700.00
Travel and Meetings			
Conference, Convention, Meeting	217.94	400.00	400.00
Travel	1,520.70	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total Travel and Meetings	1,738.64	3,400.00	3,400.00
Total Expense	18,332.39	19,600.00	19,600.00
Net Ordinary Income	804.84	2.00	2.00
Net Income	804.84	2.00	2.00

Reconciled balance for the CD as of June 30, 2015: 68,719.31

Reconciled balance for the checking acct as of June 30, 2015: 16,579.96

Adjustments for June, 2015 (uncleared transactions: travel): 0

Adjusted ending balance net uncleared transactions as of June 30, 2015: 16,579.96

Support money is received as follows:

Vermont \$2500-2000

New Hampshire \$2,000

Massachusetts \$7,500

Connecticut \$7,500

CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
P. O. BOX 511
GREENFIELD, MA 01302

2014 TAX LOSSES AND REPAYMENTS

<u>MASSACHUSETTS</u>	<u>VALUATION BASIS</u>	<u>TAX RATE</u>	<u>TAX LOSS</u>
<u>Knightville</u>			
Chesterfield	\$ 16,670.00	\$18.44	\$ 250.00
Huntington	238,190.00	17.05	4,990.00
<u>Littleville</u>			
Chester	487,480.00	20.88	9,618.00
Huntington	29,360.00	17.05	615.00
<u>Birch Hill</u>			
Phillipston	110.00	16.29	1.00
Royalston	38,200.00	9.46**	382.00
Templeton	694,670.00	16.24	7,433.00
Winchendon	323,620.00	14.93*	6,919.00
<u>Tully</u>			
Athol	7,900.00	18.43	77.00
Royalston	180,000.00	9.46**	<u>1,800.00</u>
<u>Barre Falls</u>			
All state land – no tax losses			
TOTAL			\$32,085.00

NEW HAMPSHIRE

<u>Otter Brook</u>			
Keene	\$115,090.00	33.68	\$3,166.00
Roxbury	26,740.00	22.85**	758.00
<u>Surry Mountain</u>			
Surry	238,190.00	23.98	<u>7,765.00</u>
TOTAL		**2012 rate *2013 rate	\$11,689.00

Tax Rate: per \$1,000 of assessed value as reported by towns. Tax loss is not based on current tax rate. Tax loss, valuation basis, and payment amounts were frozen by CRVFCC in 1984.

The figures included with this report voted and approved by the Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission, December 5, 2014.

CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
P. O. BOX 511
GREENFIELD, MA 01302

2014 TAX LOSSES AND REPAYMENTS

<u>VERMONT</u>	<u>VALUATION BASIS</u>	<u>TAX RATE</u>	<u>TAX LOSS</u>
<u>Union Village</u>			
Norwich	\$3,590.00	\$20.57	\$78.00
Thetford	203,380.00	20.99	3,675.00
<u>North Hartland</u>			
Hartland	110,140.00	18.31	2,324.00
Hartford	328,470.00	23.14	7,292.00
<u>North Springfield</u>			
Springfield	32,880.00	29.00	960.00
Weathersfield	554,510.00	5.97	10,092.00
Perkinsville	11,760.00	0.39	10.00
<u>Townshend</u>			
Jamaica	42,420.00	12.01	1,756.00
Townshend	204,780.00	20.60*	5,656.00
<u>Ball Mountain</u>			
Jamaica	12,460.00	12.01	516.00
Londonderry	176,020.00	17.09	<u>2,341.00</u>
TOTAL		* 2013 rate	\$34,700.00

REIMBURSEMENT FOR TAX LOSSES

<u>CONNECTICUT PAYMENTS IN REIMBURSEMENT</u>			
	<u>TAX LOSS</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>PAYMENT</u>
TO: Massachusetts	\$32,085.00	40	\$12,834.00
New Hampshire	11,689.00	40	4,676.00
Vermont	34,700.00	40	<u>13,880.00</u>
TOTAL OF PAYMENTS TO BE MADE BY CT			\$31,390.00

<u>MASSACHUSETTS PAYMENTS IN REIMBURSEMENT</u>			
TO: New Hampshire	\$11,689.00	50	\$5,845.00
Vermont	34,700.00	50	<u>\$17,350.00</u>
TOTAL OF PAYMENTS TO BE MADE BY MA			\$23,195.00