

Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016



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, 2016

Gary Moore, Chair
Denise Ruzicka, Vice Chair
Angela Mrozinski, Administrator

MEMBERS OF THE
CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
AS OF JUNE 30, 2016

Connecticut

Denise Ruzicka, East Haddam, CT
Jason Bowsza, Broad Brook, CT
Richard Sherman, Broad Brook, CT

Massachusetts

Michael Misslin, Maynard, MA
Carl Gustafson, Hadley, MA
VACANCY

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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CHAIR'S REPORT
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

The Commission has had a busy year updating and approving new by-laws and attempting to deal with issues created by Tropical Storm Irene that still plague the West River Valley in Vermont.

There were changes in the Commission membership in the past year and more are likely soon. Connecticut Commissioner Barbara Ruhe was replaced by Richard Sherman and Massachusetts Commissioner Linda Hutchins moved to Chicago creating a vacancy that has yet to be filled by the Massachusetts Governor. New Hampshire Commissioner Robert Grimley's term has expired and the Governor of New Hampshire has yet to name a replacement. Commissioner Grimley is continuing to serve while awaiting a replacement and we thank him for that. There was no change in Vermont's three Commissioners.

We are grateful for former Commissioner Barbara Ruhe who has continued to attend our meetings as an interested party and who has devoted much effort to the re-write of the Compact by-laws.

A vexing issue that has taken considerable time with as yet no real resolution involves the West River in Vermont and the Townshend Dam. Tropical Storm Irene caused significant erosion up-river and the result is sedimentation in and below the Townshend Dam, making the recreational area nearly unusable.

We have met with representatives of Townshend, VT several times and with personnel from the Army Corps of Engineers to try and remedy the situation. Vermont Commissioner Timothy O'Connor has been working diligently on the issue and coordinating with staff members of Senators Leahy and Sanders and Congressman Welch.

The Commission continues to monitor the process of relicensing several hydroelectric dams on the Connecticut River and its tributaries by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Since its establishment in 1953 the Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission has evolved and yet it continues to fulfill its principal purposes as outlined in the Compact including, "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."

I wish to make it clear that the public is always welcome at our meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary W Moore, Chair
Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission

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

September 21, 2015

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

Acceptance of June 12, 2015 meeting minutes waived until next meeting.

VT & NH: All set. MA: Mike Misslin's appointment expired in May but continues on; Linda Hutchins & Carl Gustafson still await formal appointments. No word from MA Governor. CT: Denise Ruzicka will contact the governor's office for re- / new appointments.

Discussion of Compact bylaw amendments waived until next meeting.

There was an informal, verbal agreement to increase VT admin payments from \$2000 to \$2500 in late '90s or early 2000's. To formalize that increase would require approval from legislature. Commissioners feel it is worth it to ask both NH & VT for \$500 more and would need to vote to pursue this matter with both states; do not feel MA & CT need to increase.

Final FY 2014/2015 budget numbers were reviewed.

CRWC invoice paid via standing resolution.

Linda Hutchins reviewed recommendations from the nominating committee to elect next round of officers: Gary Moore (VT) for Chair, Denise Ruzicka (CT) for Vice Chair.

Commissioners discussed CRVFCC mileage reimbursement rate should match federal rate via standing motion.

Mike provided update of Kindermorgan gas pipelines in MA.

Meeting adjourned at 10:48am.

December 4, 2015

Public Comment: Representatives from Townshend, VT presented issues they have been facing with the dam in their town.

Jason Bowsza moved to elect Gary Moore as Chair and Denise Ruzicka as Vice-Chair, second by Evan Hammond. Motion passed.

Evan Hammond moved to accept the June 12, 2015 minutes as printed, second by Robert Kline. Motion passed.

Audit committee reported that everything is in order.

CT: Richard (Dick) Sherman has been appointed to replace Barbara Ruhe. Dick is the Chairman of the American Heritage River Commission in East Windsor. This is an interim appointment until approved by the next session of the legislature. NH & VT: All set. Linda Tanner's paperwork is complete and has been sent to governor. MA: Denise Ruzicka to write a letter to Massachusetts Governor's office requesting appointments and explaining importance of prompt action on appointments.

Barbara Ruhe shared a re-write of the Compact by-laws. She suggests all commissioners read and review these and address them at a future meeting.

The \$500 increase in admin payments from VT was a verbal agreement – no vote taken by commission. The increase of VT payments from \$1000 to \$2000 happened in 1988 or 1989 and went into effect in 1990. Tim O'Connor will work on getting the \$500 increase formally approved in the 2016 legislative session.

CRWC's invoice paid via standing motion.

Commissioners reviewed the draft 2015 Tax Loss Report. Evan Hammond moved to accept the 2015 report as written, second by Robert Grimley. Motion passed.

Commissioners reviewed the draft 2014 – 2015 Annual Report. Denise Ruzicka moved to accept the 2015 report with the addition of the chairman report, second by Evan Hammond. Motion passed.

2016 Meeting Schedule – Mike Misslin will contact the Army Corps to attend a March meeting to discuss Townshend, VT issues. March will be 4, 11, or 18 depending on availability of the Corps. June 17, September 9, December 2.

CPTV ran a great special about the MDC Clean Water Project, wastewater and pollution control. Find it at www.ctwaterworks.org, Part 2. Both Denise Ruzicka and CRWC's Andy Fisk were featured. Suggestion to add link to website.

This Commission will send letters to state representatives and the Army Corps after meeting with the Corps.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37am.

March 11, 2016

Denise Ruzicka moved to accept the December 4, 2015 minutes as printed, second by Robert Kline. Motion passed.

Mike Misslin introduced Frank Fedele of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Fedele gave a presentation on the status of the flood control dams and shared information on new hydrologic precipitation models for this region.

MA: Linda Hutchins is moving and must resign her position. Denise Ruzicka to write a letter to Massachusetts Governor's office requesting appointments and explaining importance of prompt action on appointments. NH: Robert Grimley is working on a replacement to fill his position. His term has expired. VT: Evan Hammond has been reappointed.

Barbara Ruhe shared a re-write of the Compact by-laws. Gary Moore urged all commissioners read and review these and come prepared to discuss at June meeting.

Tim O'Connor is working on getting the \$500 increase in VT administrative support payment formally approved in the 2016 VT legislative session.

Evan Hammond moved to pay CRWC's invoice, second by Robert Grimley. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

June 17, 2016

Evan Hammond moved to accept the March 11, 2016 minutes as printed, second by Mike Misslin. Motion passed.

NH: Robert Grimley is waiting on response from Governor's office. His term has expired. MA: Undersecretary is "working on it." Carlo Basile is appointment secretary; Mike gave him a name to be appointed. If this does not work, Denise Ruzicka to write a letter to Massachusetts Governor's office requesting appointments and explaining importance of prompt action on appointments. VT & CT: All set.

Commissioners reviewed and commented on the draft re-written by-laws. Angela will make edits and circulate for final review.

Tim O'Connor missed the last day of legislative session but assurance from Governor's office that they will find \$500 for FY 2016-17 administrative payment. It did successfully pass the House but unsure if it passed Senate. VT invoice will be held until after September meeting or more information received on status of funds.

Tim visited DC in April. Congressman Welch working with Senators Leahy and Sanders on a proposal for committee to establish funds for dredging to improve the situation at Townshend Dam. Now they are working with the Corps of Engineers on a study (in September) of Ball Mountain and Townshend Dams ramifications. Mike suggests engineers may need to come up to study and suggest alternatives to bottom release, which sends sediment downstream. Carl Gustafson and Mike will assemble language re: scope of study and suggestions for Tim to take to legislators. Tim is staying in touch with Townshend select board but most action is taking place at governmental level now.

Evan Hammond moved to approve the 2016-2017 budget, second by Denise Ruzicka. Motion passed.

CRWC invoice paid via standing motion.

Thank you letters from Baker & Shumlin administrations for our annual report.

Discussion for all four states to have consistent language re: appointments. Will be difficult to accomplish. Suggestion to keep copy of each state statute on file so we know details about serving past expiration of term.

Recognition of Robert Grimley & Barbara Ruhe's service on the Commission.

Meeting adjourn.

The foregoing is a summary of the Minutes of meetings held during 2015-2016. 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 2015 through June 2016

	ACTUAL		Budget Forecast
	Jul '15 - Jun 16	15/16 Budget	Jul 16 - Jun 17
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Total State Payments	19,000.00	19,500.00	19,500.00
Total Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	137.89	102.00	102.00
Total Income	19,137.89	19,602.00	19,602.00
Expense			
Total Contract Services	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Total Equip Rental and Maintenance	0.00	100.00	100.00
Operations			
Postage, Mailing Service	82.00	100.00	100.00
Printing and Copying	0.00	100.00	100.00
Supplies	22.50	100.00	100.00
Telephone, Telecommunications	51.35	100.00	100.00
Total Operations	155.85	400.00	400.00
Other Types of Expenses			
Insurance - Liability, D and O	195.00	500.00	500.00
Other Costs	321.51	200.00	200.00
Total Other Types of Expenses	516.51	700.00	700.00
Travel and Meetings			
Conference, Convention, Meeting	238.63	400.00	400.00
Travel	3,192.52	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total Travel and Meetings	3,431.15	3,400.00	3,400.00
Total Expense	19,103.51	19,600.00	19,600.00
Net Ordinary Income	34.38	2.00	2.00
Net Income	34.38	2.00	2.00

Reconciled balance for the CD as of June 30, 2016: 68,857.20

Reconciled balance for the checking acct as of June 30, 2016: 16,655.73

Adjustments for June, 2016 (uncleared transactions: travel): 179.28

Adjusted ending balance net uncleared transactions as of June 30, 2016: 16,476.45

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

2015 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	\$19.09	\$ 250.00
Huntington	238,190.00	17.05*	4,990.00
<u>Littleville</u>			
Chester	487,480.00	19.30	9,618.00
Huntington	29,360.00	17.05*	615.00
<u>Birch Hill</u>			
Phillipston	110.00	15.70	1.00
Royalston	38,200.00	13.11	382.00
Templeton	694,670.00	16.64	7,433.00
Winchendon	323,620.00	15.96*	6,919.00
<u>Tully</u>			
Athol	7,900.00	19.03	77.00
Royalston	180,000.00	13.11	<u>1,800.00</u>
<u>Barre Falls</u>			
All state land – no tax losses			
TOTAL			\$32,085.00
 <u>NEW HAMPSHIRE</u>			
<u>Otter Brook</u>			
Keene	\$115,090.00	34.41	\$3,166.00
Roxbury	26,740.00	24.47	758.00
<u>Surry Mountain</u>			
Surry	238,190.00	24.82	<u>7,765.00</u>
TOTAL		*2014 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 1982.

The figures included with this report voted and approved by the Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission, December 4, 2015.

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

2015 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	\$21.03	\$78.00
Thetford	203,380.00	24.78	3,675.00
 <u>North Hartland</u>			
Hartland	110,140.00	20.44	2,324.00
Hartford	328,470.00	24.20	7,292.00
 <u>North Springfield</u>			
Springfield	32,880.00	28.10	960.00
Weathersfield	554,510.00	5.96	10,092.00
Perkinsville	11,760.00	0.36	10.00
 <u>Townshend</u>			
Jamaica	42,420.00	17.62	1,756.00
Townshend	204,780.00	21.46*	5,656.00
 <u>Ball Mountain</u>			
Jamaica	12,460.00	17.62	516.00
Londonderry	176,020.00	18.60	<u>2,341.00</u>
TOTAL		* 2014 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>			
	<u>TAX LOSS</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>PAYMENT</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