

PURSUANT TO NOTICE, THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION was held remotely via Zoom on June 19, 2020.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Connecticut	Commissioner Denise Ruzicka Commissioner Jason Bowsza Commissioner Richard Sherman
Massachusetts	Commissioner Mike Misslin Commissioner Carl Gustafson
New Hampshire	Commissioner Robert Kline Commissioner Linda Tanner Commissioner Paul Berch
Vermont	Commissioner Evan Hammond Commissioner Gary Moore Commissioner Brian Ames (proxy)

Also attending:

Angela Chaffee – Administrator for the Commission, Ron Rhodes – Connecticut River Conservancy, River Steward.

1. Michael Misslin, Chair, called the meeting to order, 9:35am.
2. Public Comment – none
3. Old Business
 - a. Commission reviewed December 13, 2019 meeting minutes. Gary Moore moved to approve December minutes, second by Evan Hammond. Motion passed.
 - b. Commissioner vacancies & appointments:
 - i. MA: Carl Gustafson & Mike Misslin not yet appointed. Still waiting on 3rd appointment, nomination has been submitted and just waiting on governor approval.
 - ii. CT: Jason Bowsza expired. Reappointment requires legislative action and legislature is cancelled. Expect action in Jan/Feb.
 - iii. NH: Linda Tanner and Paul Berch are up for reappointment, serve until reappointed. Low priority for governor.
 - iv. VT: All set.
 - c. All states have paid their annual administrative payment in full. Discussion of increasing New Hampshire's administrative payment from \$2,000 to \$2,500 is on hold. 2021 is budget year, Linda & Paul will work with finance folks to work on it.
 - d. Ron Rhodes updated Commission on conversation between Connecticut River Conservancy, VT Agency of Natural Resources, and Trout Unlimited re: possible next steps and grant fund opportunities to address cause of sedimentation at Townshend Dam. Phase 1 Stream Geomorphic Assessment has been completed on the West River. Phase 2 Assessment would help prioritize funding for river work. Funding is needed to complete Phase 2. It is possible to get grant to do assessment next year and identify priority projects, one of which could be sedimentation at Townshend Dam. VT has already identified some priority projects that may help resolve this problem, as long as they continue to fund this work. Stimulus funding may also help move these projects along. CRC or other nonprofits may be able to partner on projects like this to administer grant funds

and oversee the project. Discussion of suggesting a sediment pool to capture sediment until this issue can be resolved, which is less expensive than repeated dredging. CRC will follow up with Windham Regional Commission and VT ANR to discuss next steps to pursue funding for the Phase 2 assessment. CRC will alert Commission when it's possible to offer input on the updated basin plan for the West River. Motion by Denise Ruzicka for Commission to send letter to State of VT and delegates reminding them of the issue and note our interest and support to VT DEC encouraging movement on this issue, 2nd by Paul Berch. Motion passed.

- e. Freeze of tax loss payments happened in 1982 by unanimous vote of this Commission. Discussion of removing the freeze and taking 5yr average land value when land was acquired. Expect resistance from state governments on changing these payments and approval is needed by the states. Mike will pursue getting land value data from the US Army Corps to analyze the effect of making a change in tax loss payment formula. Discussion of response letter to NH DOR, thanking them and letting them know we're looking into and analyzing data.
- 4. New Business
 - a. CRC's invoice paid via standing motion.
 - b. Review 2020-21 Budget. Evan Hammond moved to approve the budget, second by Gary Moore. Motion passed.
 - c. Other New Business: Next meeting September 18. Discussion of a dam visit or in-person meeting in September. Leave to discretion of chair & admin to decide.
 - 5. Public Comment – none.
 - 6. Motion to adjourn meeting adjourn at 10:33am by Evan Hammond, second by Paul Berch. Motion passed.