

Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020



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, 2020

Michael Misslin, Chair
Evan Hammond, Vice Chair
Angela Chaffee, Administrator

MEMBERS OF THE
CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

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
Linda Tanner, Georges Mills, NH
Paul Berch, Westmoreland, NH

Vermont

Evan Hammond, Lunenburg, VT
Gary Moore, Bradford, VT
Brian Ames, Putney, VT

OFFICE ADDRESS

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CHAIR'S REPORT
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

As the Commission embarked upon another year of monitoring activities in the Connecticut River Basin and working toward the resolution of issues involving flood control and effective water resources utilization, none of us could have imagined the challenges of a worldwide pandemic. Although we were able to meet in person for the September and December meetings, we chose not to meet in March and met via Zoom in June. Unfortunately, we were not able to have our annual inspection of a Corps of Engineers facility due to Covid 19 concerns.

There were several discussions on the topic of the tax loss payment process, which has historically been a complex question due to the differing tax systems used by the various states that resulted in the Commission “freezing” the payments in 1982. This has been an ongoing issue for several years. Vermont and New Hampshire officials have requested that the Commission revisit the issue of computation of the tax loss payments and the Commission is evaluating methodologies to accomplish this.

Sedimentation issues resulting from streambank erosion in the West River Basin above Townshend Dam were of major interest to the Commission this year. Stephanie Wilsen from the Massachusetts office of the NRCS discussed the Regional Conservation Partnership Program with the Commission and how various state and Federal agencies can come together to partner in resolving broader environmental projects. Although Vermont ANR has accomplished Phase 1 for the West River, a Phase 2 assessment (currently awaiting funding) would help identify priority riverbank/culvert/roadway projects for funding. Many partners will be required to bring the necessary restoration efforts forward, but there may be additional resources available as national infrastructure issues are reviewed.

The Commission is also supportive of efforts on the part of the Corps of Engineers to analyze and modify discharge works on a number of dams to mitigate negative downstream effects during major storms. Climate change is affecting precipitation patterns to a degree that was not anticipated during the original design of these structures. Anticipated national infrastructure programs could provide some tangible environmental benefits by providing funds to modify and modernize these valuable flood control assets.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Misslin
Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission Chair
Representative of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SUMMARY OF COMMISSION MEETINGS MINUTES

Full minutes are available at www.crvfcc.org or by request.

September 20, 2019

Old Business

- a. Commission reviewed June 14, 2019 meeting minutes. Gary Moore moved to approve June minutes, second by Mike Misslin. Motion passed.
- b. Commissioner vacancies & appointments:
 - i. MA: Rob Lowell's appointment has moved to the governor for signature.
 - ii. CT: Jason Bowsza expired June 30. No word about reappointment.
 - iii. NH: Linda Tanner is up reappointment, serves until reappointed.
 - iv. VT: All set.
- c. VT has paid their annual administrative payment in full and NH has paid \$500 with remainder to be paid when budget is passed. NH's Continuing Resolution ends next week. Still waiting on MA & CT. Discussion of increasing New Hampshire's administrative payment from \$2,000 to \$2,500 is on hold. Linda will be pursuing this with the governor's office.
- d. Commission discussed our standard tax loss process, background of how we've handled with VT in the past, and how to respond to NH Dept. of Revenue Administration. Linda explained the figures in the letter are based on local property taxes, which are rising. The past CRVFCC equation was complicated and was difficult to find something equitable across all towns and states. Page 10 of our Compact explains a historic baseline and says Commission "may" use the tax rate but isn't obligated to, despite local municipalities' expectation of using current tax rate. Thames River (MA & CT) has also frozen their payments. All states have received benefits of recreation value and loss avoided due to flood control. This land is federally owned; other federal lands pay little or no taxes or PILOT payments. Our understanding is that NH is paying full payments to the towns based on their own equation and making up the difference from what the state get reimbursed. Linda will explore how the state calculates the town reimbursements and what the state policy or law is about this. Commission will continue to discuss this and explore historical valuations. Denise will connect with the CT State Archivist to look into our records. Mike will connect with the Army Corps to get land payment information from their records.
- e. Mike will connect with Carl Gustafson re: dam sedimentation issue and connecting NRCS with VT ANR.
- f. Administrator reviewed final FY2019-2020 budget expenses. Will send to Commissioners.

New Business

- a. CRC's invoice paid via standing motion.
- b. Review standing motions – amend #2 to clarify that it is per budget year. Gary Moore moved to add budget year clarification, Linda Tanner second, motion passed. Review document retention policy – add date of update to footer.
- c. Report from Nominating Committee recommends Mike Misslin for Chair and Evan Hammond for Vice Chair. Both accept the nominations. Gary Moore moved to approve the slate as recommended by nominating committee, Linda Tanner second, motion passed.
- d. Other New Business
 - i. Denise discussed our process of archiving CRVFCC records and her discussion with the CT State Archives of how often we should be moving our records there. Denise and administrator have some records that should be transferred which Denise will take care of.
 - ii. Evan noted that the old VT Senate resolution shared as part of the tax loss discussion was never adopted.

December 13, 2019

Old Business

- a. Commission reviewed September 20, 2019 meeting minutes. Evan Hammond moved to approve June minutes, second by Denise Ruzicka. Jason Bowsza, Carl Gustafson & Paul Berch abstain. Motion passed.
- b. Audit Committee report – no errors or issues.
- c. Commissioner vacancies & appointments:
 - i. MA: Mike will meet with Commissioner Montgomery at DCR. Rob Lowell's appointment has moved to the governor for signature, but hasn't yet been signed.
 - ii. CT: Jason Bowsza expired. Will contact the governor about reappointment.
 - iii. NH: Linda Tanner is up reappointment, serves until reappointed.
 - iv. VT: All set.
- d. VT, NH & CT have paid their annual administrative payment in full. Mike is talking to MA and will follow up on payment. Discussion of increasing New Hampshire's administrative payment from \$2,000 to \$2,500 is on hold. Linda will be pursuing this with the governor's office.
- e. Commission discussed our standard tax loss process, background of how we've handled with VT in the past, and how to respond to NH Dept. of Revenue Administration. Denise reviewed historical records. Nothing in law about how to do calculation. In 1950s they hired an accounting firm to determine how to do the calculation and no one could quite agree. Mike talked to the US Army Corps. They will find archive info on real estate values. Commission will continue to review historical information from 1980s. Will continue discussion at future meetings.

- f. Carl introduced Stephanie Wilsen from MA NRCS to discuss the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and how the funding may help with Townshend Dam sedimentation issues. Each state calls for project proposals. Must be \$250k – 10million, 5 year projects. Involves technical assistance and financial assistance 1:1 match. Project overhead match as well. Projects can be partnerships with multiple states and/or federal agencies. State agencies cannot be a lead partner. Army Corps may be able to contribute technical assistance. VT ANR, DEC can connect with VT NRCS. If any part of the project involves MA, involve MA NRCS. RCPP is very flexible as long as there is a single goal, partners or location can change. RCPP allows for policy waivers that can allow for broader projects. Proposal will be stronger if more dams are involved (Townshend & Ball Mtn, possibly others), and other water quality (algae blooms) and/or wildlife habitat work. Information on ranking of need of specific rivers for restoration work would help (Ottaquechee River, possibly others). Next steps are to talk to VT ANR. Stephanie will talk to her contacts in VT and will share more information about the RCPP program with the Commission. Application period for 2020 has ended, can put in a proposal in December 2020 for 2021 funds.

New Business

- a. CRC's invoice paid via standing motion. Jason Bowsza move to pay, Evan Hammond second, motion passed.
- b. Review 2019 Tax Loss report. Denise Ruzicka moved to approve the report, second by Jason Bowsza. Motion passed.
- c. Review 2018-19 Annual Report. Paul Berch moved to approve the report, Jason Bowsza moves to amend motion to include the new chair's report, second by Carl Gustafson. Motion passed.
- d. 2020 meeting schedule: March 13, June 19, September 18, December 11.
- e. Other New Business:
 - i. Denise transferred a box of historic records to the CT State Archive and we have received a deed of gift. The process was very seamless.

June 19, 2020

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.

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.

Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission
Income & Expense Budget vs. Actual
 July 2019 through June 2020

	ACTUAL		Budget Forecast
	Jul '19- Jun 20	19/20 Budget	Jul 20 - Jun 21
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Total State Payments	19,500.00	19,500.00	19,500.00
Total Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	127.23	102.00	102.00
Total Income	19,627.23	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	106.00	100.00	100.00
Printing and Copying	0.00	100.00	100.00
Supplies	40.44	100.00	100.00
Telephone, Telecommunications	51.35	100.00	100.00
Total Operations	197.79	400.00	400.00
Other Types of Expenses			
Insurance - Liability, D and O	195.00	500.00	500.00
Other Costs	0.00	200.00	200.00
Total Other Types of Expenses	195.00	700.00	700.00
Travel and Meetings			
Conference, Convention, Meeting	0	400.00	400.00
Travel	1,412.88	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total Travel and Meetings	1,412.88	3,400.00	3,400.00
Total Expense	16,805.67	19,600.00	19,600.00
Net Ordinary Income	2,821.56	2.00	2.00
Net Income	2,821.56	2.00	2.00

Reconciled balance for the CD as of June 30, 2020: 69,410.35

Reconciled balance for the checking acct as of June 30, 2020: 31,419.40

Adjustments for June, 2019 (uncleared transactions: travel): 35.96

Adjusted ending balance net uncleared transactions as of June 30, 2019: 31,383.44

Support money is received as follows:

- Vermont \$2500
- New Hampshire \$2,000
- Massachusetts \$7,500
- Connecticut \$7,500

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

2019 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	\$19.99	\$ 250.00
Huntington	238,190.00	19.92	4,990.00
<u>Littleville</u>			
Chester	487,480.00	21.00	9,618.00
Huntington	29,360.00	19.92	615.00
<u>Birch Hill</u>			
Phillipston	110.00	16.65	1.00
Royalston	38,200.00	13.00	382.00
Templeton	694,670.00	17.24	7,433.00
Winchendon	323,620.00	16.71	6,919.00
<u>Tully</u>			
Athol	7,900.00	17.45	77.00
Royalston	180,000.00	13.00	<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	37.60	\$3,166.00
Roxbury	26,740.00	25.00*	758.00
<u>Surry Mountain</u>			
Surry	238,190.00	28.92	<u>7,765.00</u>
TOTAL		*2018 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 were voted and approved by the Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission, December 13, 2019.

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

2019 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	21.42	\$78.00
Thetford	203,380.00	24.65	3,675.00
<u>North Hartland</u>			
Hartland	110,140.00	19.98	2,324.00
Hartford	328,470.00	16.66	7,292.00
<u>North Springfield</u>			
Springfield	32,880.00	36.84	960.00
Weathersfield	554,510.00	6.25	10,092.00
Perkinsville	11,760.00	0.39	10.00
<u>Townshend</u>			
Jamaica	42,420.00	20.00	1,756.00
Townshend	204,780.00	23.89	5,656.00
<u>Ball Mountain</u>			
Jamaica	12,460.00	20.00	516.00
Londonderry	176,020.00	19.59	<u>2,341.00</u>
TOTAL		*rate found online	\$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