

PURSUANT TO NOTICE, THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION was held remotely via Zoom on December 11, 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 (proxy)
~~Commissioner Linda Tanner (absent)~~
Commissioner Paul Berch

Vermont Commissioner Evan Hammond
Commissioner Gary Moore
~~Commissioner Brian Ames (absent)~~

Also attending:

Angela Chaffee – Administrator for the Commission

1. Michael Misslin, Chair, called the meeting to order, 9:38am.
2. Public Comment – none
3. Old Business
 - a. Commission reviewed September 18, 2020 meeting minutes. Paul Berch moved to approve September minutes, second by Evan Hammond. Motion passed.
 - b. Commissioner vacancies & appointments:
 - i. MA: Rob Lowell’s name has been forwarded to governor’s office. Carl Gustafson & Mike Misslin on the list for reappointment.
 - ii. CT: Jason Bowsza expired, expects reappointment. Reappointment requires legislative action and legislature reconvenes in January.
 - iii. NH: Linda Tanner and Paul Berch are up for reappointment, serve until new appointments made.
 - iv. VT: All set.
 - c. All states have been invoiced for their annual administrative payment; CT & NH have paid. 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 new fiscal committee on it.
 - d. Mike still working to get land value info from Army Corps. Everything is subject to legislative appropriations, states have to agree to revisit issue. Unresolved issues are to be referred back to governors (per our compact); should consider going to New England governors’ council to find path forward. States get intangible benefits from green space & flood protection. NH & VT have legitimate concern. We can make argument for status quo. Would be helpful to get report from Army Corps of savings due to damage avoided by flood control dams; Mike will contact them to get a recent report.
 - e. Haven’t heard about any new funds available for West River Stream Geomorphic Assessment phase 2 work. 10% reduction required in all VT budgets. Phase 2 is key to getting funding to implement on-the-ground projects. Can’t move forward until budgets are approved
4. New Business

- a. Gary Moore & Mike Misslin reported on testimony provided to the VT Sunset Advisory Committee on 10/21/20. Gary & Mike provided info to the committee ahead of their hearing and Gary testified as rep from VT. Committee asked good questions about what we do, concerned about issues in Windham Co re: tax loss payments (not developable, rec benefits), discussed Townshend Dam & our work to help resolve sedimentation issues. They voted to support continuation of our Commission.
 - b. Denise Ruzicka moved to pay CRC's invoice, second by Carl Gustafson. Motion passed.
 - c. Review of 2020 draft Tax Loss Report, Jason Bowsza moved to approve as presented, second by Richard Sherman. Motion passed.
 - d. Review of 2019-20 draft Annual Report, Jason Bowsza moved to approve as presented, second by Paul Berch. Motion passed.
 - e. Set 2021 meeting schedule: March 19, June 18, September 17, December 10. Possible field/site visit in June or September.
 - f. Other New Business:
5. Public Comment – none.
 6. Meeting adjourn at 10:18am