

# Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022



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, 2022

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

MEMBERS OF THE  
CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION  
AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

**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**

Paul Berch, Westmoreland, NH  
VACANCY  
VACANCY

**Vermont**

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

OFFICE ADDRESS

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**CHAIR'S REPORT**  
**July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022**

The Commission continued to adjust and transition its meetings in response to Covid protocols. During this fiscal year we held two site visits at flood control facilities. We also had an in-person meeting in December 2021. Importantly for continuity, we moved meeting dates to Wednesdays to facilitate the part-time schedule of our administrator from the Connecticut River Conservancy. The continuity of Administrator Angela Chaffee along with her knowledge of the Flood Control Commission has been essential to our operations. Especially during these difficult times, we would like to acknowledge our deep appreciation to Angela.

Our September 17, 2021 meeting was held in an outdoor pavilion at Knightville dam in Huntington, MA. The annual review of the Commission's standing motions and document retention protocols was undertaken and approved without modifications. New officers were elected in accordance with the nominating committee's recommendation of Denise Ruzicka (CT) as Chairman replacing Michael Misslin (MA), and Gary Moore (VT) as Vice-Chair replacing Evan Hammond (VT). Following the business meeting we toured the Knightville Flood Control facility. Much gratitude to Michael Misslin for setting up the flood control visit with the US Army Corp of Engineers New England Division.

The December 10, 2021 meeting was held in person at the Connecticut River Conservancy office in Greenfield, MA. After several previous meetings where the Commission discussed the New Hampshire Department of Revenue letter regarding tax loss payments, the Commission reviewed and unanimously approved a response letter outlining the difficulties and history regarding this matter. We also continue to follow the status of the Townshend Lake Dam (VT) sedimentation issue and the Upper West River Stream Geomorphic assessment.

The March 16, 2022 meeting was cancelled.

The June 15, 2022 meeting was held at the Otter Brook Lake Recreation Area in Keene/Roxbury, NH. The US Army Corps of Engineers responsible for this site gave us a slide presentation on the flood history, construction and operations of the Otter Brook Flood Control Dam. It was a very impressive and comprehensive presentation. Thereafter we held our business meeting and then toured the dam.

Of ongoing concern to the Commission is the delay in states making appointments/reappointments in a timely matter, resulting in a lack of quorum and continuity. This could hamper the CRVFCC ability to carry out our mission and associated business. The Commission has traditionally relied on the state appointees to communicate with their respective Governor offices and their appointment staff. Some states make appointments that continue past their expiration until a new appointment or reappointment is made. This allows for continuity. At each meeting the Commission reviews the current roll of members and their expiration date and reappointment status. During the next year, due to the resignation and retirement of several Commissioners, the Commission may need to more directly communicate with states regarding the need for timely filling of vacancies.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise Ruzicka (CT)  
Chairman

## SUMMARY OF COMMISSION MEETINGS MINUTES

*Full minutes are available at [www.crvfcc.org](http://www.crvfcc.org) or by request.*

### September 17, 2021

#### 1. Old Business

- a. Commission reviewed June 18, 2021 meeting minutes. Gary Moore moved to approve June minutes, second by Jason Bowsza. Motion passed.
- b. Commissioner vacancies & appointments:
  - i. MA: Still working on appointments, Carl is looking for a replacement, 3<sup>rd</sup> nominee is with the secretary but hasn't been to the governor yet.
  - ii. CT: Jason needs reappointment, Denise is looking for a replacement – an active agency person
  - iii. NH: Governor not making appts, Linda & Bob looking for a replacement
  - iv. VT: Brian Ames is looking for a new appointee to replace him.
- c. VT has paid 2021-2022 invoices for their annual administrative payment. Denise will call CT. Mike will call MA. 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter is typical time when payments are made in MA & CT. Discussion of increasing New Hampshire's administrative payment from \$2,000 to \$2,500 is on hold. Denise will draft a letter to NH re: admin payment increase.
- d. NH Dept. of Revenue Administration sent another letter in March about insufficient tax loss payments. Commission feels it is unlikely other states will be on board with spending more. Discussion of periodic reassessment based on land value and flood protection value. Corps in Concord is back in office but will be going more remote again soon. Mike still pursuing land value and flood protection savings due to damage avoided. Commission will look into sending a letter noting that we continue to discuss and share history of this issue, to be sent to governor, DES, and DORA.
- e. Our letters helped bring attention to the sedimentation issue at Townsend Dam and erosion of the upper West River. No updates on the proposals for Stream Geomorphic Assessment work. Mike will inquire with Margo at Windham Regional Commission for an update.
- f. Review final FY 20-21 expenses

#### 2. New Business

- a. CRC's invoice: Jason Bowsza move to issue payment, second by Gary Moore, motion passed.
- b. Review standing motions – working well – and document retention policy. CT state archives will accept our files whenever works for us. MA sends down files whenever they are found. System works very well. Denise Ruzicka move to maintain status quo of both, second by Gary Moore, motion passed.
- c. Nominating committee proposes Denise Ruzicka for Chair, Gary Moore for Vice-Chair (replacing Michael Misslin as Chair and Evan Hammond as Vice Chair, Andrew Fisk, CRC director will remain a signer on the account). Jason Bowsza moved to accept nominations as presented, second by Linda Tanner. Motion passed.
- d. Other New Business: December mtg plans – Tentatively plan to meet in Greenfield on 12/10 unless Covid changes in the meantime. Afterward, do the audit and go to bank for new commissioners to do signature card.

### December 10, 2021

#### 1. Old Business

- a. Commission reviewed September 17, 2021 meeting minutes. Gary Moore moved to approve September minutes, second by Mike Misslin. Motion passed.
- b. Commissioner vacancies & appointments:
  - i. MA: Governor is not running for re-election. There is a new acting DCR Commissioner in place who may make appointments.
  - ii. CT: They do all state appointments at once, when legislature is in session.
  - iii. NH: Tends to stay status quo. Linda has resigned. Angela will follow up to see if she has also submitted resignation to the appointing office (Governor).
  - iv. VT: Brian Ames is looking for a new appointee to replace him.

- c. NH is the only state that has not yet paid 2021-2022 invoice for their annual administrative payment. Paul Berch contacted Alicia Chelmo, Accountant with NH Department of Business & Economic Affairs. Denise will work with Angela to send Paul a memo about NH's payment history.
  - d. Commission reviewed draft response letter to NH Dept. of Revenue Administration. Jason Bowsza move to approve draft letter as amended, second by Evan Hammond. Motion passed.
  - e. Proposals were being accepted in June for the completion of a Stream Geomorphic Assessment (SGA) of the upper West River in Vermont. Mike or Carl will pursue an update. The SGA will open up funding for projects to solve sedimentation issues at Townsend Dam.
2. New Business
- a. CRC's invoice: Paid via standing motion.
  - b. Review 2021 tax loss report. Gary Moore move to approve 2021 Tax Loss Report, second by Evan Hammond. Motion passed.
  - c. Review FY 2020-21 annual report. Evan Hammond move to approve 2020-21 Annual Report, second by Mike Misslin, motion passed. Gary Moore move to draft & send letter to Corps re: infrastructure improvements, second by Evan Hammond. Motion passed.
  - d. 2022 meeting schedule: March 18, June 17 (field trip), September 16, December 2. Mike will look into a dam visit in June in NH.
  - e. Other New Business: Angela announced changes to her job at CRC, which may impact her role as administrator with the Commission. More details will be finalized in the coming months and she will keep everyone updated.

## June 15, 2022

1. Old Business
- a. Commission reviewed December 10, 2021 meeting minutes. Gary Moore moved to approve December minutes, second by Paul Berch. Motion passed.
  - b. Commissioner vacancies & appointments:
    - i. MA: Beth Card is new Environment Secretary. Mike will talk with her about making appointments.
    - ii. CT: Need new appointment or reappointment for Dick. Commissioners serve until new appointment is made.
    - iii. NH: Linda has resigned and Bob Kline is also resigning. Paul will start asking around to see if anyone is interested in serving.
    - iv. VT: Gary will call the governor's appointment secretary to check on current appointments and getting new appointment for Brian.
  - c. All states have paid 2021-2022 invoices for their annual administrative payment. If Paul is still in state legislature, he'll talk to budget committee re: increasing their payment from \$2000 to \$2500 to match VT.
  - d. Fitzgerald Environmental Associates was selected to contract with VT DEC to complete a Stream Geomorphic Assessment (SGA) of the upper West River in Vermont. Some landowner outreach has been done, field work starting soon, and they are assembling a steering committee to discuss concerns and ideas. The SGA will eventually open up funding for projects to solve sedimentation issues at Townsend Dam.
2. New Business
- a. CRC's invoice: Paid via standing motion.
  - b. Review FY 2022-23 budget. Evan Hammond moved to approve 2022-23 budget, second by Mike Misslin. Motion passed.
  - c. 2022 meeting schedule: September 14, December 7.
  - d. Other New Business: Discussion of visiting Colebrook Dam in CT in 2023. Denise will put together a thank you note to the Corps.



**Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission**  
**Income & Expense Budget vs. Actual**  
 July 2021 through June 2022

	<b>ACTUAL</b>		<b>Budget Forecast</b>
	<b>Jul '21- Jun 22</b>	<b>21/22 Budget</b>	<b>Jul 22 - Jun 23</b>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Total State Payments</b>	19,500.00	19,500.00	19,500.00
<b>Total Interest-Savings, Short-term CD</b>	95.45	102.00	102.00
<b>Total Income</b>	19,595.45	19,602.00	19,602.00
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Total Contract Services</b>	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
<b>Total Equip Rental and Maintenance</b>	0.00	100.00	100.00
<b>Operations</b>			
<b>Postage, Mailing Service</b>	146.00	100.00	100.00
<b>Printing and Copying</b>	0.00	100.00	100.00
<b>Supplies</b>	0.00	100.00	100.00
<b>Telephone, Telecommunications</b>	75.95	100.00	100.00
<b>Total Operations</b>	221.95	400.00	400.00
<b>Other Types of Expenses</b>			
<b>Insurance - Liability, D and O</b>	195.00	500.00	500.00
<b>Other Costs</b>	0.00	200.00	200.00
<b>Total Other Types of Expenses</b>	195.00	700.00	700.00
<b>Travel and Meetings</b>			
<b>Conference, Convention, Meeting</b>	0	400.00	400.00
<b>Travel</b>	1,905.94	3,000.00	3,000.00
<b>Total Travel and Meetings</b>	1,905.94	3,400.00	3,400.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	17,322.89	19,600.00	19,600.00
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	2,272.56	2.00	2.00
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>2,272.56</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>

Reconciled balance for the CD as of June 30, 2022:	<u>69,627.17</u>
Reconciled balance for the checking acct as of June 30, 2022:	38,052.34
Adjustments for June, 2022 (uncleared transactions: travel):	<u>7882.49</u>
Adjusted ending balance net uncleared transactions as of June 30, 2022:	30,169.85

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

**2021 TAX LOSSES AND REPAYMENTS**

<u>MASSACHUSETTS</u>	<u>VALUATION BASIS</u>	<u>TAX RATE</u>	<u>TAX LOSS</u>
<u>Knightsville</u>			
Chesterfield	\$ 16,670.00	\$20.20	\$ 250.00
Huntington	238,190.00	20.52*	4,990.00
<u>Littleville</u>			
Chester	487,480.00	20.49	9,618.00
Huntington	29,360.00	20.52*	615.00
<u>Birch Hill</u>			
Phillipston	110.00	16.94*	1.00
Royalston	38,200.00	13.00**	382.00
Templeton	694,670.00	16.11	7,433.00
Winchendon	323,620.00	16.28*	6,919.00
<u>Tully</u>			
Athol	7,900.00	17.66	77.00
Royalston	180,000.00	13.00**	<u>1,800.00</u>
<u>Barre Falls</u>			
All state land – no tax losses			
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$32,085.00</b>
 <u>NEW HAMPSHIRE</u>			
<u>Otter Brook</u>			
Keene	\$115,090.00	31.28	\$3,166.00
Roxbury	26,740.00	26.04	758.00
<u>Surry Mountain</u>			
Surry	238,190.00	24.52	<u>7,765.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		**2019 rate *2020 rate	<b>\$11,689.00</b>

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 11, 2020.



CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION  
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**2021 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	\$23.59	\$78.00
Thetford	203,380.00	25.71	3,675.00
<u>North Hartland</u>			
Hartland	110,140.00	23.28	2,324.00
Hartford	328,470.00	27.56	7,292.00
<u>North Springfield</u>			
Springfield	32,880.00	37.36	960.00
Weathersfield	554,510.00	25.53	10,092.00
Perkinsville(dissolved)	11,760.00	25.53	10.00
<u>Townshend</u>			
Jamaica	42,420.00	20.95	1,756.00
Townshend	204,780.00	21.68	5,656.00
<u>Ball Mountain</u>			
Jamaica	12,460.00	20.95	516.00
Londonderry	176,020.00	20.42	<u>2,341.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$34,700.00</b>

**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>
<b>TOTAL OF PAYMENTS TO BE MADE BY CT</b>			<b>\$31,390.00</b>

<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>
<b>TOTAL OF PAYMENTS TO BE MADE BY MA</b>			<b>\$23,195.00</b>