

Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024



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, 2024

Gary Moore, Chair
Paul Berch, Vice Chair
Angela Chaffee, Administrator

MEMBERS OF THE
CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

Connecticut

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

Massachusetts

Michael Misslin, Maynard, MA
Carl Gustafson, Hadley, MA
Robert Lowell, Paxton, MA

New Hampshire

Paul Berch, Westmoreland, NH
Cathryn Harvey, Spofford, NH
Antonio Ortiz, Amherst, NH

Vermont

Evan Hammond, Lunenburg, VT
Gary Moore, Bradford, VT
John Arrison, Ascutney, VT

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CHAIR'S REPORT
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

The Commission has done two site visits in the fiscal year to better be educated about the various projects for which it is responsible.

September 23, 2023 the Commission visited the North Hartland Dam and was provided with a tour of the site and a presentation on the history of the project and its current operation. The July flooding that wreaked havoc in much of Vermont had an impact on the project and staff showed some of the results of the flooding. It should be emphasized that the dam did what it was designed to do and did not reach a dangerous level.

June 24, 2024 the Commission visited the North Springfield Dam. Corps staff provided a presentation on the history of the project and its current operation and led us on a tour of the project.

The ongoing issues with Vermont's West River are still prominent on our radar.

The Upper West River SGA (Stream Geomorphic Assessment) work was delayed by the flooding in Vermont last summer. Fitzgerald Environmental Associates got pulled into lots of emergency repair and resiliency work, so they requested an extension on the SGA. The new schedule was to have all work completed by the time this report is published.

The Stream Geomorphic Assessment will eventually open up funding for projects to solve sedimentation issues at Townsend Dam.

Commissioners discussed the history of the sedimentation issue, as well as the effects of changing climate, and water quality concerns.

Tax loss payments to affected Vermont towns continue to occupy the Commission's time.

A letter was sent on February 15, 2024 to the governors of the four compact states asking that they take a look at the issue. As of this writing, there has been no response from any of the states.

We have learned that only Vermont forwards the payments to the towns while the others keep it in the general fund, which may be why the Commission does not get complaints about the payments from towns in the other states.

The Commission is committed to fulfilling its obligations as set out in the 1953 enabling legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary W Moore
Chair CRVFCC

SUMMARY OF COMMISSION MEETINGS MINUTES

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

September 13, 2023

1. Old Business

- a. Commission reviewed June 21 meeting minutes. Gary Moore moved to approve meeting minutes, second by Mike Misslin. Motion passed.
- b. Commissioner vacancies & appointments:
 - i. MA: Serve until someone is reappointed. Carl is looking for someone to replace him. Mike will write to the governor requesting that their recommended candidates be appointed. Rob is still waiting for acceptance.
 - ii. CT: Serve until someone is reappointed. Two are up for reappointment. Denise got a call from CT DEEP and they are looking to have someone from the agency join the Commission.
 - iii. NH: All set.
 - iv. VT: All set.
- c. All four states have been invoiced for their 2023-2024 annual administrative payment. NH & VT have paid. Denise will call CT to check on payment.
- d. Work continues on the upper West River Stream Geomorphic Assessment (SGA). The SGA will eventually open up funding for projects to solve sedimentation issues at Townsend Dam. Angela Chaffee shared a recent update. The contract end date has been extended to April 1, 2024. Fitzgerald Environmental Associate requested this to provide them the winter months to do the quality control work and final report rather than during the fall field season. We have requested a copy of the final report. Commission provided a background on this issue. Angela will send copy of contract.
- e. Review of final FY 2022-23 expenses.

2. New Business

- a. CRC's invoice: Paid via standing motion.
- b. Commission discussed adjusting frequency of reviewing Standing Motions & Document Retention policy from annually to every other year. Paul Berch moved to review the standing motions and document retention policy every other year, second by John Arrison. Motion passed.
- c. Nominating committee proposes Gary Moore as Chair, Paul Berch as Vice-Chair (replacing Denise Ruzicka as Chair and Gary Moore as Vice-Chair). Angela Chaffee, CRVFCC administrator will remain a signer on the account. Antonio Ortiz moved to accept nominations as presented, second by John Arrison. Motion passed.
- d. Other New Business: December 6th meeting to be held in Greenfield so new officers can go to the bank and update signature cards.

December 6, 2023

1. Old Business

- a. Commission reviewed September 13 meeting minutes. Paul Berch moved to approve meeting minutes, second by John Arrison. Motion passed.
- b. Commissioner vacancies & appointments:
 - i. MA: Serve until someone is reappointed. Carl is looking for someone to replace him, possibly someone from the river valley with NRCS experience. Mike will write to the governor requesting that their recommended candidates be formally appointed. Rob is still waiting for acceptance.
 - ii. CT: Serve until someone is reappointed. Two are up for reappointment. Denise got a call from CT DEEP and they are working on having someone from the agency join the Commission.
 - iii. NH: All set.
 - iv. VT: All set.
- c. All four states have been invoiced for their 2023-2024 annual administrative payment. NH, VT, and MA have paid. In September, Denise said she would call CT to check on payment. Angela has followed up with Denise and waits for an update.
- d. Fitzgerald Environmental Associate continues work on the upper West River Stream Geomorphic Assessment (SGA). The SGA will eventually open up funding for projects to solve sedimentation issues at Townsend Dam. The contract end date has been extended to April 1, 2024. We have requested a copy of the final report. No further updates at this time but keep it on our agenda as an ongoing issue to track.

2. New Business

- a. CRC's invoice: Paid via standing motion.
- b. Review 2023 Tax Loss report. John asks us to revisit this to adjust payments. Discussion of sending letter to the four governors (copy to finance directors) to review this issue in order that the tax loss payments may reflect current day rates. Paul Berch moved to approve report as written with addition of letter to governors and finance staff, second by Mike Misslin. Motion passed.

- c. Review 2022-2023 Annual Report. John Arrison moved to approve report, second by Paul Berch. Motion passed.
- d. Set 2024 meeting schedule: March 6, June 12, September 18, December 11. Discussion of June field trip, Mike will look into visiting North Springfield, VT. Prefer to meet virtually rather than cancel in March to maintain consistency and continuity.

March 6, 2024

1. Old Business

- a. Commission reviewed December 6 meeting minutes. Paul Berch moved to approve meeting minutes, second by Evan Hammond. Motion passed. Denise Ruzicka abstained.
- b. Commissioner vacancies & appointments:
 - i. MA: Rob continues to inquire about the status of appointments and has put this in front of the governor again. Lousie LeGouis is interested in replacing Carl.
 - ii. CT: Jason Bowsza has resigned as of 2/12/24. Graham Stevens, Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse at CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) has been talking to the governor about being appointed.
 - iii. NH: All set.
 - iv. VT: John has requested reappointment, was filling a term vacated.
- c. All four states have paid their invoices for the 2023-2024 annual administrative payment.
- d. Letter to governors was sent on February 15, 2024. There has been no response yet. John will follow up with VT administration, thanked Gary & Mike for their work drafting the letter. Mike thanked Denise for her past research on the issue.

2. New Business

- a. CRC's invoice: Paid via standing motion.
- b. Other New Business: Discussion of June field trip, Mike will contact Army Corps to arrange our 6/12 meeting at dam in North Springfield, VT.

June 12, 2024

1. Old Business

- a. Commission reviewed March 6 meeting minutes. John Arrison moved to approve meeting minutes, second by Paul Berch. Motion passed.
- b. Commissioner vacancies & appointments:
 - i. MA: Loise LeGouis is no longer able to join due to family emergency. Rob and Mike are looking for another retired engineer from western MA to join.
 - ii. CT: Still trying to get appointments now that legislative session is over. Denise is moving but staying in the basin in CT. Graham Stevens, Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse at CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) is still interested in being appointed.
 - iii. NH: All set.
 - iv. VT: John has been reappointment and will send the paperwork to Angela.
- c. All four states have paid their invoices for the 2023-2024 annual administrative payment.
- d. The Upper West River SGA (Stream Geomorphic Assessment) work was delayed by the flooding in VT last summer. Fitzgerald Environmental Associates got pulled into lots of emergency repair and resiliency work so they requested an extension on the SGA. The new schedule plans to have all work completed by September. We will follow up to get a copy of the report. Commissioners discussed the history of the sedimentation issue, as well as effects of changing climate, and water quality concerns.
- e. Letter to governors about adjusting PILOT payments was sent on February 15, 2024. There has been no response yet from the states. John followed up in VT, and the state feels they don't have adequate info to make any changes. MA EOEEA questioned why it went to them and not the tax office. MA payments do not get dispersed to each town, rather into the general fund. Discussion of lump sum payments, which is how this has been handled for other rivers and other compacts. Land values, secondary economic benefits (tourism, recreation, etc.), inflation and other factors complicate the matter. Discussion of next steps and how to get responses from the states. Commission will continue to track this.

2. New Business

- a. CRC's invoice: Paid via standing motion.
- b. Commission reviewed draft FY2024-25 budget. Update dates at bottom to 2024, increase postage budget to \$150, Evan Hammond moved to approve budget with modification as discussed, second by Paul Berch. Motion passed.

Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission
Income & Expense Budget vs. Actual
 July 2023 through June 2024

	ACTUAL		Budget Forecast
	Jul '23- Jun 24	23/24 Budget	Jul 24 - Jun 25
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Total State Payments	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Total Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	245.32	102.00	102.00
Total Income	20,245.32	20,102.00	20,102.00
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	194.00	100.00	150.00
Printing and Copying	0.00	100.00	100.00
Supplies	0.00	100.00	100.00
Telephone, Telecommunications	76.95	100.00	100.00
Total Operations	270.95	400.00	450.00
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	2,309.73	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total Travel and Meetings	2,309.73	3,400.00	3,400.00
Total Expense	17,775.68	19,600.00	19,650.00
Net Ordinary Income	2,469.64	502.00	452.00
Net Income	2,469.64	502.00	452.00

Reconciled balance for the CD as of June 30, 2024:	<u>70,048.22</u>
Reconciled balance for the checking acct as of June 30, 2024:	38,802.14
Adjustments for June, 2024 (uncleared transactions: travel):	<u>3,826.95</u>
Adjusted ending balance net uncleared transactions as of June 30, 2024:	34,975.19

Support money is received as follows:
 Vermont
 \$2500
 New Hampshire \$2,500
 Massachusetts \$7,500
 Connecticut \$7,500

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

2023 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	\$15.92	\$ 250.00
Huntington	238,190.00	19.99**	4,990.00
<u>Littleville</u>			
Chester	487,480.00	17.83	9,618.00
Huntington	29,360.00	19.99**	615.00
<u>Birch Hill</u>			
Phillipston	110.00	12.84	1.00
Royalston	38,200.00	12.21*	382.00
Templeton	694,670.00	12.92	7,433.00
Winchendon	323,620.00	15.11*	6,919.00
<u>Tully</u>			
Athol	7,900.00	14.04	77.00
Royalston	180,000.00	12.21*	<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	31.89	\$3,166.00
Roxbury	26,740.00	26.04**	758.00
<u>Surry Mountain</u>			
Surry	238,190.00	16.02	<u>7,765.00</u>
TOTAL		**2021 rate *2022 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 6, 2023.

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

2023 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	25.37	\$78.00
Thetford	203,380.00	25.72	3,675.00
<u>North Hartland</u>			
Hartland	110,140.00	23.63	2,324.00
Hartford	328,470.00	10.82	7,292.00
<u>North Springfield</u>			
Springfield	32,880.00	33.47	960.00
Weathersfield	554,510.00	16.68*	10,092.00
Perkinsville(dissolved)	11,760.00	16.68*	10.00
<u>Townshend</u>			
Jamaica	42,420.00	24.08	1,756.00
Townshend	204,780.00	21.24	5,656.00
<u>Ball Mountain</u>			
Jamaica	12,460.00	24.08	516.00
Londonderry	176,020.00	4.95	<u>2,341.00</u>
TOTAL		*2022 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