

Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission

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PURSUANT TO NOTICE, THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION was held at the Connecticut River Conservancy office, 15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA on December 11, 2024.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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| Connecticut | Commissioner Denise Ruzicka (phone) Commissioner Richard Sherman |
| Massachusetts | Commissioner Mike Misslin Commissioner Robert Lowell (proxy) |
| New Hampshire | Commissioner Paul Berch (proxy) Commissioner Antonio Ortiz (proxy) Commissioner Cathryn Harvey |
| Vermont | Commissioner Evan Hammond Commissioner Gary Moore Commissioner John Arrison |

Also attending: Angela Chaffee – Administrator for the Commission; Barbara Sherman.

1. Gary Moore, Chair, called the meeting to order, 9:35 am.
2. Public Comment – none.
3. Old Business
 - a. Commission reviewed September 18 meeting minutes. John Arrison moved to approve meeting minutes, second by Evan Hammond. Motion passed.
 - b. Commissioner vacancies & appointments:
 - i. MA: As of 11/4/24 Carl Gustafson has resigned from the Commission. Mike will remind him to send resignation letter to governor with copy to boards & commissions chair.
 - ii. CT: Ramona Goode & Graham Stevens' names (CT DEEP) have been put forward and Denise is still working to move them toward appointment.
 - iii. NH: All set.
 - iv. VT: All Set.
 - c. All states have paid their invoices for the 2024-2025 annual administrative payment.
 - d. The Upper West River SGA (Stream Geomorphic Assessment) work was delayed by the flooding in VT the past two summers. Fitzgerald Environmental Associates got pulled into lots of emergency repair and resiliency work so they requested an extension on the SGA. They are currently working on QA updates from the Rivers Program and developing the project summary sheets. Then they will draft concept designs, which should be the final piece. Marie Caduto (VT ANR), who

provided the update, had not heard of any impacts of recent floods on the sedimentation issues behind the dams or of flood control capacity in that region. We will follow up to get a copy of the report.

- e. Letter to governors about adjusting PILOT payments was sent on February 15, 2024. There has been no response yet from the states. Gary will reach out to Governor Scott (VT). Letter went to Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) in VT, bounced around to various depts in MA. Most states pushed it to other departments. Discussion of whether going to see the governors would be more effective than a letter. Had attempted years ago to have them or their aides discuss it at the New England Governor's Conference and they wouldn't address it. Our purview is the Army Corps dams but we can discuss the entire system of dams that are interconnected. Commission will continue to track this.
4. New Business
 - a. CRC's invoice: Paid via standing motion.
 - b. Review 2024 Tax Loss report. John moved to increase PILOT payments to his calculated numbers to reflect 221% inflation since 1982, Evan second. Discussion of our moral obligation to the towns and states to pay more. Concern there is no extra funds in state budgets to pay more, states need advance notice to increase that budget for those line items. Discussion of giving the states notice this year that Commission is contemplating this change, include in letter how new numbers were calculated, and send it to the state departments and governors with follow-up phone calls to governors. TBD whether this is a one time or yearly adjustment for inflation. John withdraws motion, Evan withdraws second. Proposal that Mike Misslin & John draft a letter, circulated to commissioners for review. Evan moves that Mike & John draft letter sent with tax loss report that proposes what tax loss would be next year and the basis, John second. Motion passed. Evan moves to approve Tax Loss report as written, second by Mike. Motion passed, John voting in favor under protest.
 - c. Review 2023-2024 Annual Report. Evan moved to approve report, second by Cathryn Harvey. Motion passed.
 - d. Set 2025 meeting schedule: March 5, June 25, September 17, December 10. Cathryn move to accept calendar, Evan second. Motion passed. Discussion of June field trip to Knightville Dam in MA.
 - e. Other New Business – none.
 5. Public Comment – none.
 6. Meeting adjourn; motion John, second Cathryn; at 10:54 am.