

Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014



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, 2014

Michael Misslin, Chairman
Gary Moore, Vice Chairman
Angela Mrozinski, Administrator

MEMBERS OF THE
CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
AS OF JUNE 30, 2014

Connecticut

Denise Ruzicka, 50 Creamery Rd., East Haddam, 06423
Barbara J. Ruhe, 915 Silas Deane Hwy., Wethersfield, 06109
Jason Bowsza, 34 Rye St., Broad Brook, 06016

Massachusetts

Michael Misslin, Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, 251 Causeway St., Ste. 600, Boston, 02114
Linda Hutchins, Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, 251 Causeway St., Ste. 600, Boston, 02114
Carl Gustafson, 8 Hillside Dr., Hadley, 01035

New Hampshire

Robert G. Kline, 93 Old County Road, Plainfield, 03781-5111
Robert Grimley, PO Box 550, Grantham, 03753
Vacancy

Vermont

Evan Hammond, 126 Colby Rd., Lunenburg, 05906
Gary Moore, Box 454, Bradford, 05033
William Pettengill, 103 Maple Hill Drive, Guilford, 05301

OFFICE ADDRESS

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

Sixty years after its creation, the Commission continues to evolve and grow in order to address current issues and the environmental factors affecting the Connecticut River and its surrounding watershed. Events of the past year have impacted the Commission staffing, as our colleagues Fred Parker from New Hampshire is no longer able to serve due to health reasons and Bill Pettengill from Vermont has indicated he wishes to be replaced on the Commission by another representative from his state. Carl Gustafson, the retired NRCS State Engineer for Massachusetts, has been selected as the third Massachusetts state member on the Commission and we are glad to have the benefit of his experience and expertise. The second and third Massachusetts members will have long term appointments before the Governor departs office in January 2015.

The Commission continues to discuss amending elements of the Compact bylaws to reflect current operating conditions and to include such changes as allowing the Commission to meet remotely using available technologies, something that wasn't envisioned during the drafting of the original compact.

The Commission continues to discuss the issue of equitable payment in lieu of taxes (so called PILOT payments) for Federal flood control facilities (lands and dams) constructed to provide interstate flood control benefits. Most recently, an inquiry concerning this issue was received from Townshend, Vermont. A response letter outlining the Commission's position will be composed and sent to the community.

As the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission initiates relicensing of several hydroelectric dams and issues preliminary and final licenses for the development of additional power development on the Connecticut River and its tributary watercourses, the Commission will monitor these activities closely to ensure the principal purposes of the Compact are addressed equitably. Similarly, where FERC is considering the construction of additional gas delivery pipelines across the Connecticut and its tributaries, the Commission will monitor these developments for the inclusion of adequate environmental safeguards at crossing points.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael D. Misslin, Chairman
Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission

**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETINGS
HELD DURING THE PERIOD OF THIS REPORT**

September 2, 2013

Fred Parker moved to accept the June 21, 2013 minutes as printed, second by Gary Moore. Motion passed.

CT: Barbara Ruhe will remain active until a new appointment has been made, which may be about nine months. MA: Carl Gustofson, retired NRCS engineer, has agreed to sit on the Commission and has been selected for appointment. NH: Robert Kline is to be reappointed.

The Commission discussed updates and enhancements for the CRVFCC website.

Angela Mrozinski reported that the CT River Watershed Council does not carry a surety bond and has liability insurance instead. Noted that no copy of the CRVFCC surety bond policy found in files. Commission discusses the purpose and goals of the surety bond. Angela will call the insurance company to get a copy of the policy. Commission will revisit the issue in December.

Denise Ruzicka moved to approve the final 2013-14 budget as presented, which was reviewed at the June meeting, second by Evan Hammond. Motion passed.

Denise Ruzicka reviewed the Nominating Committee report. The committee, comprised of Denise Ruzicka of CT and Fred Parker of NH, unanimously recommended Mike Misslin of MA for chair and Gary Moore of VT for vice-chair. Evan Hammond moved to accept the nominations of the committee as presented, second by Robert Grimley. Motion passed.

CRWC invoice paid by standing resolution.

The Commission discussed a document retention policy and reviewed draft policies. Commission noted that all general correspondence should be kept permanently. Records sent to the CT State Archive on an as-needed basis. Angela Mrozinski will edit the CRWC policy to suit CRVFCC needs and bring a draft for review to the December meeting.

Evan Hammond moved to adjourn, second by Fred Parker. Motion passed. Adjourn at 10:28am.

December 6, 2013

Update from Commission Administrator on the health status of Robert Grimley, who recently had surgery.

Gary Moore moved to accept the September 20, 2013 minutes as printed, second by Fred Parker. Barbara Ruhe abstained. Motion passed.

NH: Robert Kline has been reappointed. CT: Barbara Ruhe to stay on the Commission until the legislature reconvenes, potentially in the spring. MA: Carl Gustofson, retired NRCS engineer, will be appointed by new DCR Commissioner Murray. Official letter expected around January 1.

Commission Administrator reviews what is known of the existing surety bond. NGM Insurance Company sent a Continuation Certificate with very basic language. The company noted that they no longer have access to the full policy. Discussion of getting a policy that would cover more positions and a greater sum of money. Gary Moore moved to send a letter requesting a copy of our current policy, noting it is our intention to renew the existing policy naming the Chair, Vice-Chair & any agent of the Commission authorized to sign and policy limit increased to \$100k, request a quote and inquire to process to amend policy. Motion second by Evan Hammond. Motion passed. Gary Moore moved to authorize the Chair to review and approve a new or revised liability/surety bond, second by Fred Parker. Motion passed. Administrator will send quote to Commissioners via email for review.

Denise Ruzicka moved to adopt the Document Retention Policy with the addition of including Annual Reports retained permanently, second by Gary Moore. Motion passed.

No changes have been made to the website yet. The Administrator proposed developing a new WordPress website for the CRVFCC. The Commission expressed interest and can authorize a budget for CRWC time. Barbara Ruhe moved to authorize an expenditure of up to \$1,000 for CRWC to update the website, second by William Pettengill. Motion passed.

Commissioners reviewed the 2013 Tax Loss report. Commissioner Grimley was contacted by the town of Surry, NH stating they had not received payment. He will reply to them noting that payments to individual towns come from their state government, not from the CRVFCC or from other states. Each state receives payments from other states and is responsible for disbursing funds to individual towns. The Tax Loss report needs to be sent to the financial departments of each state government to trigger state payments to each other with letter noting the payment amounts. Discussion of adding a note to the 2014 report stating that the tax loss is not based on the tax rate; the tax

loss, valuation basis and payment amounts were frozen in 1984. Add note to 2013 report that the tax rate is per \$1,000 of valuation. Barbara Ruhe moved to accept the report with minor changes discussed, second by Evan Hammond. Motion passed.

Commissioners reviewed the 2012-2013 Annual Report. Barbara Ruhe moved to accept the Annual Report as written and hold the release until Robert Grimley submits the Chairman's letter to be included, second by Gary Moore. Motion passed.

CRWC invoice paid via standing motion.

Commissioners discussed letter sent to the Commission from Townshend, VT regarding tax loss payments. Suggestion to develop a standard letter outlining the limited authority of the CRVFCC and encouraging them to contact the governor of their state. Note that all states receive a benefit of avoided damages from these facilities. Mike Misslin will follow up to get ACOE flood analysis numbers for 2012, posted annually on their website, to be posted on the CRVFCC website. Administrator will send a brief response letter that the CRVFCC has received and reviewed their letter and is taking the issue under advisement and reasearch. They will receive a more complete response in the future, noting the next meeting is likely to be in June, 2014. Chairman Misslin will work with VT Commissioners to draft a response. CC Commission Members.

2014 Meeting Schedule: March 21, June 20, September 12, December 5.

Evan Hammond moved to adjourn, second by Denise Ruzicka. Meeting adjourned at 11:05am.

June 20, 2014

Update from Commission Administrator on the health status of Fred Parker, who recently was injured from a fall and is in a nursing home.

Introduction of David Corwell of NH Department of Revenue. He is interested in learning more about the commission.

Denise Ruzicka moved to accept the December 6, 2013 minutes as printed, second by Gary Moore. Motion passed.

MA: Welcome to new MA Commissioner, Carl Gustafson. Paperwork coming from legal counsel. CT: Barbara Ruhe continues until a new appointment is made. NH: Fred Parker has resigned. Bob Grimley is considering resigning. Bob and Mike will check in on replacements. VT: Bill Pettengill will be replaced.

Barbara continues to work on the compact bylaw amendments. Suggestion to update the obvious changes, such as office location. The last by-law update was in the 1980s. Administrator will send letter to insurance company regarding the surety bond policy. Will report to Commission in September.

There has been research on how to start a WordPress site. Updates should happen within the next year. Will need to increase our web host service to next level to allow for update to WordPress, about \$10/yr. No expense on the previously approved \$1000 budget for this project.

Letter from Townshend, VT: A brief response was sent in December stating we received their letter, looking into it, will reply with more full response after next meeting. Discussion of role and limitations of CRVFCC in this process. Compact states that requests for change must be from the governor. Mike Misslin & Linda Hutchins will draft a letter, send to Commission prior to September meeting and review at meeting.

VT governor sent letters to VT Commissioners on a good job done, sent after the last CRVFCC annual report was received. Commission has not increased administrative costs since the compact was written. Evan Hammond will research when a vote took place to increase the administrative costs from \$2000 to \$2500. Administrator will send recently compiled document about historical administrative payments.

Gary Moore moved to accept the budget as presented, second by Barbara Ruhe. Motion passed.

Gary Moore moved to pay the CRWC invoice, second by Evan Hammond. Motion passed.

Discussion of how to recognize Fred Parker's service to the board. Gary Moore moved to have Evan Hammond purchase a clock/plaque, Denise Ruzicka second. Motion passed.

David Corwell thanked the Commission for having him. He appreciates learning more of the process.

Mike Misslin moved to adjourn, second by Gary Moore. Meeting adjourned at 11:20am.

The foregoing is a summary of the Minutes of meetings held during 2012-2013. Full minutes are available for inspection at www.crvfcc.org or by request.

Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission
Income & Expense Budget vs. Actual
 July 2013 through June 2014

	<u>Jul '13 - Jun 14</u>	<u>13/14 Budget</u>	Budget Forecast <u>Jul 14 - Jun 15</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Total State Payments	19,000.00	19,500.00	19,500.00
Total Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	136.95	102.00	102.00
Total Income	19,136.95	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	78.00	100.00	100.00
Printing and Copying	0.00	100.00	100.00
Supplies	0.00	100.00	100.00
Telephone, Telecommunications	39.35	100.00	100.00
Total Operations	117.35	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	45.33	400.00	400.00
Travel	2,150.07	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total Travel and Meetings	2,195.40	3,400.00	3,400.00
Total Expense	17,507.75	19,600.00	19,600.00
Net Ordinary Income	1,629.20	2.00	2.00
Net Income	<u>1,629.20</u>	<u>2.00</u>	<u>2.00</u>

Reconciled balance for the CD as of June 30, 2014: 68,582.08

Reconciled balance for the checking acct as of June 30, 2014: 15,912.35

Adjustments for June, 2013 (uncleared transactions - travel): 0

Adjusted ending balance net uncleared transactions as of June 30, 2014: 15,912.35

Support money is received as follows:

Vermont \$2,500

New Hampshire \$2,000

Massachusetts \$7,500

Connecticut \$7,500

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

2013 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	\$17.99	\$ 250.00
Huntington	238,190.00	16.37	4,990.00
<u>Littleville</u>			
Chester	487,480.00	20.28	9,618.00
Huntington	29,360.00	16.37	615.00
<u>Birch Hill</u>			
Phillipston	110.00	15.56	1.00
Royalston	38,200.00	9.46*	382.00
Templeton	694,670.00	14.12	7,433.00
Winchendon	323,620.00	14.93	6,919.00
<u>Tully</u>			
Athol	7,900.00	15.48	77.00
Royalston	180,000.00	9.46*	<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	31.40*	\$3,166.00
Roxbury	26,740.00	22.85*	758.00
<u>Surry Mountain</u>			
Surry	238,190.00	18.93*	<u>7,765.00</u>
TOTAL		*2012 rate	\$11,689.00

Tax Rate: per \$1,000 of assessed value as reported by towns.

The figures included with this report voted and approved by the Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission, December 6, 2013.

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

2013 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	\$19.80	\$78.00
Thetford	203,380.00	20.08	3,675.00
 <u>North Hartland</u>			
Hartland	110,140.00	18.11	2,324.00
Hartford	328,470.00	21.77*	7,292.00
 <u>North Springfield</u>			
Springfield	32,880.00	26.65	960.00
Weathersfield	554,510.00	5.67	10,092.00
Perkinsville	11,760.00	0.39	10.00
 <u>Townshend</u>			
Jamaica	42,420.00	14.95*	1,756.00
Townshend	204,780.00	20.60	5,656.00
 <u>Ball Mountain</u>			
Jamaica	12,460.00	14.95*	516.00
Londonderry	176,020.00	13.86	<u>2,341.00</u>
TOTAL		* 2012 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