

**Sunset Advisory Commission
Board and Commission Review**

The Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

The Commission also reviews whether members of a board or commission should be entitled to a per diem and, if so, the amount of that per diem.

In testifying before the Commission, you should be able to provide the following information:

1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years.

Vermont Milk Commission

The Vermont Milk Commission is to meet once per year as indicated in Statute. If the Commission is working on a specific issue it meets more frequently. In the last two fiscal years the Milk Commission worked on specific recommendations surrounding dairy for the US Farm Bill and reviewing supply management as requested by the Legislature. The meeting dates are shown below.

September 26, 2017; October 13, 2017; November 7, 2017; December 1, 2017; December 19, 2017; October 5, 2018 and December 12, 2018 – scheduled

2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.

Per diem is \$75 per day and mileage reimbursement. Legislators do not receive per diem or mileage reimbursement from the Agency of Agriculture.

Current membership of the Milk Commission is shown below:

Harold Howrigan Jr. – 2021

Jerry Booth – 2021

Linda Berlin – 2021

Paul Doton – 2020

Jane Clifford – 2020

Reg Chaput – 2020

Senator Bobby Starr

Representative Richard Lawrence

Chair, Secretary Anson Tebbetts

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.

The general purposes of this subchapter are to protect and promote the public welfare by insuring at all times an adequate supply of clean, pure milk and cream of proper quality to meet the needs of the inhabitants of this State and to ensure the continuing economic vitality of the dairy industry by stabilizing the price received by farmers for their milk at a level allowing them an equitable rate of return.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

The purpose is still relevant today. There is not a specific group in state government that can address the issues surrounding the dairy industry. Membership of the milk commission is specific to the dairy industry and recommendations are required by groups in the industry and representing the industry that are specific and not repeated in other agricultural boards and commissions.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

The VT Milk Commission has worked diligently to collect information from the dairy industry in Vermont as well as nationally surrounding the Farm Bill and Supply management. The evidence of performance includes inclusion of Milk Commission recommendations in the legislative language of the current Farm Bill and the use by the congressional delegation of those recommendations during deliberations.

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

No changes are needed.

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

There are no other boards or commissions completing this type of work specific to dairy. The VT Milk Commission is still the best entity for this purpose.

8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

The statute correctly reflects the purpose and activities of the Milk commission.

9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

Milk Commission members are provided a per diem, mileage and if appropriate meals. The expenditure in FY18 was \$500 in per diems and \$511 in mileage reimbursement. The VT Agency of Agriculture FY 19 Budget includes a general fund allocation for the Milk Commission in the amount of \$5,000.

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

The Milk Commission is required to provide a report to the VT Legislature once per year. A report was provided to the Legislature in 2018 and will be provide in 2019. In past years, reporting was more sporadic.