

Information for the SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION State of Vermont

The Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission was created by the Connecticut River Flood Control Compact signed into law by President Dwight D Eisenhower in June of 1953 and executed by the four signatory states (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont) on 08 September 1953.

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION The Commission was created by the states to (a) promote interstate comity among and between the signatory states; (b) to assure adequate storage capacity for impounding the 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 resource utilization in the basin of the Connecticut River and its tributaries. The Commission operates within the confines of the Connecticut River watershed and its activities are not constrained by municipal or state boundaries.* The compact document may be found at the Commission's website.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION The Commission consists of 12 commissioners. Each signatory state shall appoint three members to the Commission. The members of the Commission are chosen by their respective states in such a manner and for such a term as may be fixed and determined by the laws of each of the said states by which they are appointed. Any compensation or per diem rates are set by the applicable state authorities.

NAMES AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION This information may be found on the Commission's website at www.crvfcc.org.

Current members representing the State of Vermont are:

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

COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE The Commission schedules quarterly meetings, currently at the offices of the Connecticut River Conservancy, which provides administrative support to the Commission. The offices are at 15 Bank Row, Greenfield, Massachusetts. The Commission also has the option of holding meetings electronically, in conformance with the Open Meeting Laws.

The Commission also tries to schedule one meeting as a field visit to a flood control dam or resource management facility each year.

MEETING NOTES and ANNUAL REPORTS. The Commission publishes an annual report which is distributed to the Governors, Secretaries of State, State Libraries and is available online at the Commission's website at www.crvfcc.org. Additionally, the Commission's minutes are published

on this site once they are approved. Currently, Annual reports from 2007 to 2019 and meeting notes from March 2016 to the present may be found online at the Commission's website.

COMMISSION FUNDING The Commission has no employees but instead contracts administrative services through the Connecticut River Conservancy in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Each of the four signatory states makes an annual administrative payment to support the work of the Commission. Massachusetts and Connecticut each contribute \$7500, New Hampshire \$2000 and Vermont \$2500.

For the fiscal year ending June 2020 the Commission had a budget of \$19,600 and actual expenses of \$16805.67

TAX LOSS PAYMENTS The Commission ensures that the annual tax loss payments due New Hampshire and Vermont from Connecticut and Massachusetts are paid in a timely fashion.

FUNCTIONS and CURRENT MISSIONS Since the creation of the Compact in 1953, state government infrastructures have been expanded to include greater involvement in many areas, including the environment, yet no state entity is uniquely positioned to perform the oversight function of the Commission, as it is not either geographically or politically constrained by state boundaries. The Commission's original mission has not changed but has become more critical in an age of numerous state and Federal agencies having overlapping and sometimes conflicting issues. While the Commission continues to provide oversight of federal flood control activities we are also monitoring the development of hydropower activities overseen by FERC, especially in the areas of flood control, minimum releases and dam safety, which is independent of state oversight. (Dams under the jurisdiction of FERC are subject to FERC dam safety guidelines) We have also been active in lobbying for additional Federal infrastructure funds to insure the long term safety and stability of Federal dams within the watershed and to also improve their ability to release floodwaters without causing excessive sediment release by the modification of gate structures at several locations. The Commission has taken an active role in securing maintenance dredging at the Townshend Dam recreational area and is moving forward to assist in coordinating efforts to assess ongoing sedimentation issues in the Upper West River, outside of the Corps of Engineers jurisdictional area. We are currently discussing the need for a Stream Geomorphic Assessment with state DEC and Windham Regional Commission officials as well as the NRCS and the Corps of Engineers. Identifying areas subject to streambank erosion and developing cost effective repair strategies involves teamwork and coordination between multiple state, local and Federal agencies as well as landowners. The CRVFCC is uniquely positioned to advocate for flood control and environmental issues within the entire Connecticut River watershed.