

Sunset Advisory Commission
Board and Commission Review of _Champion Land Transaction Citizen Advisory Council

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. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.**

This council has not met in the last two fiscal years. The last meeting was in 2001-2002.

- 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.**

Not currently active. Membership and duties outlined in the authorizing statutes, pasted below.

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

Provide citizen/leaseholder input on management of the former Champion Lands (now West Mountain WMA, USFWS Conte Refuge, Weyerhauser timber lands).

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

This council is not currently active. However, leaseholders and others interested in the management of these lands may wish to reactivate it in the future.

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

When it was needed it fulfilled its mission.

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

There is no other formal convening of this group of stakeholders.

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?

No overlap.

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

Yes, although it is currently inactive.

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

None.

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?

None.

11. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission?

Useful when created, inactive as there are currently no management controversies regarding this property.

The Vermont Statutes Online

Title 10: Conservation and Development

Chapter 156: CHAMPION LAND TRANSACTION CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL

§ 6407. Council created

A citizen advisory council is created to assist in implementing the provisions of the Champion land transaction in the northeastern region of Vermont authorized by the 1999 session of the general assembly. (Added 1999, No. 1, { 87b, eff. March 31, 1999.})

§ 6408. Functions

(a) The council shall function as a forum to hear and attempt to resolve concerns involving the so-called Champion lands that are brought to the attention of the council regarding ongoing use and management of state lands, collaboration with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and public access to the public and privately held lands. With respect to the public lands and the role of the agency of natural resources, these matters may include, but shall not be limited to, public access, the recreation access plan, snowmobiling, motorized, mechanical and equestrian access, private roads, temporary restrictions, federal ownership, timber harvesting, land conservation, water classification, economic development and camp leases. The council has no authority to discuss or comment on interests obtained by a private owner who purchases a portion of the property, including timber harvesting and forest management interests obtained.

(b) The council shall also function as a source of information to persons interested in learning about the transaction including its legal conditions, or about the ongoing use and management of the land. (Added 1999, No. 1, { 87b, eff. March 31, 1999.})

§ 6409. Members; organization

(a) The council shall consist of 11 voting members appointed by the governor as follows:

(1) six persons residing in the northeastern region of the state, made up of one representative each of the logging industry, another private business interest in Essex County, a local hunting and fishing group, the Vermont association of snow travelers, camp leaseholders of former Champion land, and an elected official of municipal government in Essex County, each with a three-year term except that initial terms shall be staggered, to be appointed by the governor from a list of three nominees for each position submitted jointly by the members of the state legislative delegation of Essex County; and

(2) one person representing the new private ownership of a portion of the former Champion land; and

(3) the secretary of the Vermont agency of natural resources or his or her designee from within the agency; and