

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

The Board meets on an as needed basis and has met 5 times in the past 2 fiscal years and 10 times since they were created in 2016. Minutes and agendas can be found at the following link: <https://vcgi.vermont.gov/parcels/parcel-advisory-board>

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.

Membership on the Advisory Board, with organizations defined in statute are as follows:

- (1) the Secretary of Transportation or designee, who shall serve as chair - Rob White, VTrans
- (2) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee - Billy Coster, ANR
- (3) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee - Chris Cochran, ACCD
- (4) the Commissioner of Taxes or designee - Jill Remick, Tax Dept.
- (5) a representative of the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies - Peter Fellows, TRORC
- (6) a representative of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns - Karen Horn, VLCT
- (7) a land surveyor licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 45 designated by the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors - Randall Otis, LLS

The statute does not prescribe term limits, an expiration of the Board, or call for compensation of the members.

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

The purpose of this board is established in [19 V.S.A. § 44](#) : *“monitoring the Statewide Property Parcel Mapping Program and making recommendations to the Agency of how the Program can be improved to enhance the usefulness of statewide property parcel data for State agencies and departments, regional planning commissions, municipalities, and the public.”*

The Vermont Agency of Transportation is providing funding to accomplish the initial creation and update of parcel data over 3 years to create a statewide, consistent, and up-to-date GIS database of parcel boundaries. An ongoing maintenance program led by the Vermont Center for Geographic Information will help to ensure that the data created is updated annually and made available to all via download, web services, and online mapping applications.

Learn more about the Parcel Data Program at this link: <https://vcgi.vermont.gov/parcels>

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

The Agency (AOT) and VCGI believe there is currently still a need for the Board. There will need to be a full handoff of the project to the program, where VTrans role will sunset with the closure of the project and the Vermont Center for Geographic Information's (VCGI) role will increase with implementation of the program to maintain the parcel data. There will be benefits to having oversight of the program as it moves forward and establishing process and protocols for the update of the parcel data and interactions with vendors and municipalities. There are also the steps to create the digital repository of surveys that will require oversight from the Board.

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

The input of the Board into the policy, technical, fiscal, contracting, and strategic formulation of this new program has been instrumental. With the Board's guidance, the following Municipal Digital Parcel Data Sets have been developed:

Year 1 – 73

Year 2- 102

Year 3 – 80

Additionally, sections of [Bill H.526](#) creating a statewide digital survey library were the result of recommendations made by the Board in an effort to improve the long term sustainability of the program.

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

The role of the Advisory Board could potentially be done as a sub-committee of the Enterprise GIS Consortium (EGC), but the Advisory Board has representation by management or higher levels, as opposed to technical staff that are more involved with the EGC. VCGI might be able to absorb these functions once the program has stabilized and is fully implemented.

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 is a nexus with the EGC, due to GIS data, but AOT and VCGI are not aware of any board or commission where there is overlap or duplication of the roles of the Parcel Property Data Advisory Board.

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

Yes.

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

There were no expenses related to the Board as there is no compensation.

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?

19 VSA § 44 does not include a requirement for a legislative report, or reports to the Governor or State agency. On behalf of the Board, VCGI did produce [a report to the General Assembly on recommendations to ensure maintenance of Statewide Property Parcel Data](#) (12/19/2018).