

Sunset Advisory Commission 2022 Board and Commission Questionnaire

The Sunset Advisory 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.

Please answer the following questions about the specific board or commission under review. If asked to testify before the Sunset Advisory Commission, please plan to provide concise recommendations regarding the continued operation of the board or commission under review and any revisions to its powers, duties, or membership.

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.

- a. The Current Use Advisory Board (CUAB) meets twice annually, in January and February, for about 2 hours.

- b. Agendas and meeting minutes can be found in our shared drive of our Property Valuation and Review Division upon request to tax.currentuse@vermont.gov.

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.

- a. The CUAB is created in [32 V.S.A. § 3753](#). The current list of appointees can be found [here](#).

- b. They receive a \$50 per diem for days at which the meeting is held, and mileage to travel in person to the meeting (with a virtual option).

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

32 V.S.A. § 3754. Powers and duties of Board

(a) The Board shall meet at least annually, prior to February 1, to review all past current use land values for agricultural land and managed forestland recommended by past boards, to review the criteria for lands previously established, and to establish new criteria and values as legislation and land management practices may indicate, to establish a schedule of criteria and values to be recommended for the current tax year, and to recommend such changes and improvement in the administration of this subchapter as experience and public reaction may recommend. The Board's criteria and recommended values may reflect the class, type, grade, and location of the land, together with its productive capacity and income-producing capability of agricultural and forestland.

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

- a. The makeup of the board and their input has value and there would be little benefit to redefining the role of CUAB. The Board is representative of landowners, non-landowners, subject matter experts and associated agencies and provides value and open discussion of the Use Value established annually.
5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?
 - a. The Board establishes the values annually at this meeting successfully and on time with thoughtful discussion and input and reliance on subject matter experts from the associated agency representatives. They are also responsible for Administrative Rules, which are currently being revised by a subcommittee of the Board.
6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?
 - a. The related agencies could establish the values on their own, but would still need an authority at some level to accept those values. The related agencies could also carry out the Administrative Rulemaking under their authority.
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?
 - a. They do not overlap and have a very narrow responsibility that they meet annually with little if any difficulty.
8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?
 - a. Yes.
9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?
 - a. \$600 was submitted and reimbursed to the members who requested their per diem. They are paid for out of the Tax Department's operating budget. Difficult to estimate staffing costs, but under \$3,000 annually between an attorney and two staff members dedicating about 120 hours annually.
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?
 - a. No.