

*Email from Bev Soychak received January 30, 2025 regarding testimony given on Beavers January 29, 2025*

Summit bill includes \$1282.38 dam removal at this specific site . The remaining were other dams along the same water shed. This gives you some idea of expense. Total cost of trapping and excavation for this one spot to remove 4 beavers ad 1 muskrat.  
\$4988.65 . Repeated process was done within a year.

As you can see the trapping is done at great expense to taxpayers. They are set out for longer periods of time and we are billed for daily checks despite it being recreation trapping season.

Our organization could have secured this area at an estimated cost of \$ 4500.00 for years to come keeping beavers in area and healthy and conflict free. Unfortunately, a local farmer did not like the beavers and he had a grant to protect bobolinks on his pasture, so they took priority. This also needs to be addressed because with direction and flooding control both could benefit .

VFW program is not funded well enough, and materials are inferior to what is needed to prevent a failure. There has been some confusion between our devices failing but we have not had a failure unless it was tampered with or a highwater event occurred. I have a functioning device still working 5 years later but expected to last 20 plus years. This is a lot of saving especially to infrastructure which was not even addressed yesterday because VFW is habitat based . Those conversations need to be had with VTRANS. Our organization has been researching this in an unbiased way for years. We have made many unsuccessful attempts to work with VFW as well . Two years ago a VFW Biologist made a public statement that the budget for materials for these devices for their department was \$5000.00 so clearly a big gap and hence failures happened.. Devices are and investment but pay for themselves quickly.

My only other concern is that the Gentleman who oversees the enforcement of beaver issues in our VFW state program is a commercial trapper on his time off. Although what someone does on his own time may not be a question of ethics. I feel it's a very strong confidence issue with Vermonters to believe conflicts are not managed with Beavers in mind. Their is a reason why private contractors across the nation are handing issue outside wildlife agencies; this is a real concern as you heard yesterday.

I was so impressed with yesterday's presentation and so glad to see you all take interest in Vermont Beavers. We have organizations all over our state supporting their ecological wealth. We are missing the boat on the financial benefits.

Thank you all for your service to our state and our organization is always available for anything you need.

Bev Soychak

Co Founder

VT Beaver Association and Administrative director of the VT statewide Beaver Collective.