

Pursuant to notice, the quarterly meeting of the Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission was held at the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation office in Northampton, MA on December 5, 2008.

PRESENT:

Connecticut	Commissioner Charles Berger (proxy) Commissioner Denise Ruzicka absent Commissioner Barbara Ruhe
Massachusetts	Commissioner Michael Misslin Commissioner Eugene Cavanaugh (proxy)
New Hampshire	Commissioner Fred Parker Commissioner Robert Kline Commissioner Robert Grimley
Vermont	Commissioner Evan Hammond Commissioner William Pettengill (proxy) Commissioner Gary Moore (proxy)

Because of proxies, we were able to proceed with the December 5th meeting. Gary indicated the following regarding his proxy: "I am willing to give my proxy so that there can be a quorum, but not to vote for the apportionment of payments."

Agenda #1 – Acceptance of Minutes of September 19, 2008 meeting

Motion was made, seconded and voted to accept the Minutes as presented; because she was absent at the last meeting, Barbara abstained from voting for the acceptance of these minutes.

Agenda #2 – Old Business – Report of visit by four Commissioners to the Corps of Engineers

In November, Chairman Evan Hammond and Commissioners Fred Parker, Bob Grimley and Mike Misslin traveled to Concord, MA for a scheduled meeting with members of the Corps of Engineers. Some of the Corps members attending the meeting included Executive Assistant Steve Andon, and other members from Real Estate, Legal Operations, etc. At the beginning the Corps did not have a feel for why we had requested the meeting – they seemed to be reluctant to give the commissioners much information, they said if we wanted to have research done, they would have to charge us for that, etc. After they learned that what we wanted/needed was less complicated than what they had believed, they became more helpful.

When the Corps began to understand what we wanted, they came up with some ideas, i.e., we would have to resolve the interstate issue and they were willing to help us with this endeavor. Evan felt it was a very positive meeting and felt we established a good relationship. They gave our group a website and some booklets. Mike Misslin took the pamphlets that the Corps had given the men and said he will look at them to see how helpful they would be. They also said they had a handbook from 1984 and they're able to extract information from that. Their manuals were 24 years old.

The Real Estate people said straight out that there wasn't any excess land at any of the dams that could be turned back to the towns. (The Commission had thought this might be a possibility for the towns to take back some of the land and sell it). They also said we would have to define the project.

The Commission has been investigating the issue of how to go about making payments to towns that have dams in them more equitable or more in tune with the times. That was the reason for the meeting with the Corps – perhaps they'd have some suggestions about how to go about it.

As the Commission continued their discussion at the Flood Control meeting, Barbara made a suggestion that everyone thought was a very good one – she said first we have to define what the project will be, but she thought we should pursue trying to get an interested student to collect data and do the research work, etc. for us. Everyone began to think that was a very good suggestion – many schools were named; Mike Misslin said it is his understanding that when people are looking for civil engineers they go to the University of Vermont to find them! Bob Grimley was going to approach a few colleges on an informal basis just to put out some feelers. Discussion continued with no definite ideas yet on how to define the project and what the next step should be.

Evan questioned whether we're still short one commissioner from Massachusetts? Mike Misslin said yes we are and he had brought it up to the Massachusetts State Commissioner right away – Mike told him, "6 months ago you promised me there would be a new appointee and you would speak to the governor directly" and the Commissioner said, "yes I did." Mike also said he pointed out to the Commissioner that he does not have an appointment from the Governor – this needs to be sorted out. In regard to Evan's question, Barbara pointed out that there must be some Conservation groups around that would have people who would be interested in serving on our Commission. Mike Misslin said his boss lives in Westfield, the western part of Massachusetts, and even though he's been looking for people to fill the positions, he hasn't had any luck. Evan said when he had difficulty getting reappointed he contacted his state representative and it went through quickly.

It seems that the Weathersfield, VT meeting results were anticlimactic. They were to get property information from all the towns but so far we haven't received anything.

Evan Hammond passed around a newspaper article from The Caledonian-Record of 7/7/08 with accompanying picture of Gary Moore. He was named a Distinguished Alumnus of Lyndon State College and we're proud to have him on our Commission

Agenda #3a New Business – Acceptance of the Tax Loss Figures

Motion was made, seconded and voted to accept and approve the Tax Loss Figures for 2008.

Agenda #3b New Business – Approval of Annual Report for 2007-2008

Motion was made, seconded and voted to accept and approve the Annual Report for 2007-2008.

Agenda #3c Any Other Business to come Before the Commission

Motion was made, seconded and voted to send copies of the Annual Report to the governors of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Agenda #4 – Date of the next meeting

It was decided that there would not be a March meeting unless we have something which needs our attention. A date of March 20 was set just in case we do need to meet.

Agenda #4a - Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting is June 19, 2009.