

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 June 26, 2009.

PRESENT:

Connecticut

Charles Berger, Jr.  
Denise Ruzicka  
Barbara J. Ruhe

Massachusetts

Mike Misslin  
Martha King

New Hampshire

Fred Parker  
Robert Kline  
Robert Grimley

Vermont

Evan Hammond  
Gary Moore

Chairman Evan Hammond welcomed everyone who was in attendance.

**Old Business**

**a) Acceptance of Minutes of December 5, 2008 meeting.** -Evan opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. Motion was made that the Minutes of 12/05/08 be accepted as presented. Everyone accepted except Denise who abstained since she did not attend the meeting.

**b) New members from Massachusetts are needed NOW**

Martha King was on her way to the meeting. Mike Misslin stated that he had a call from Governor Patrick who said that he now understood that there needed to be appointments made to the Commission and he was working on the matter. Mike said that his department was making recommendations that someone from Springfield or West Springfield be appointed, that another person of the governor's choosing also be appointed, and have one DCR member appointed as well. (Gene Cavanaugh is no longer working for the DCR and is at home).

**c) Tax Loss payments from Connecticut and Massachusetts to Vermont were delayed.**

Mike Misslin stated that his Office of Water Resources had put a payment into the processing system. He said Vermont should be getting their money soon and he was going to check to make sure that NH had received their money. Denise said they had initially sent the Connecticut check to Polly in error so she sent it back. They sent the check to VT so that was taken care of.

**d) Continuation of discussion of new tax loss formula – is this something we want to pursue?**

Bob Grimley said he didn't think it would be a good idea at this point in time, given the state of the economy. Barbara said even if we could justify it, it would probably take us at least two

budget cycles to get anyone to listen to us – if we were lucky! Denise said they have to justify every cent – they don't have a state budget right now but she said they've been successful in retaining the current amounts that are in the budget.

As an aside, Denise said she was able to obtain a Corps of Engineers Project Map Book dated September, 1984. It gives a lot of information for every project and she thought it would be helpful if Polly could make copies of those projects that pertain to our Commission. Polly took the map and will try to have that done by next meeting.

Mike said from their meeting with the Corps he's done some work, he's got the framework ready, he also thinks we should increase \$\$\$. Evan pointed out that he had gone through some archives and discovered a Supreme Court ruling for Trans Canada that property underneath the lake had no value. Denise said the dams do provide recreation and economic value, flood protection – not just for communities downstream. Barbara said she would see if she could come up with some information regarding the issue.

Evan said he had passed out copies of a letter he had received from the Consensus Building Institute of Cambridge, MA – on behalf of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Nature Conservancy – they're looking to identify key issues facing the Connecticut River, to identify how a basin-wide model might be useful to stakeholders, and to ascertain how stakeholders might want to participate in the development of the model. Evan said he did participate by answering questions and sending some papers in; he told them that the river gauges are something we need to preserve and he answered some other questions pertaining to the CT River. He thought they're looking at plant and animal life more than anything, but he thought some of what they develop will be very useful to the Commission as well.

Denise said she is involved in this from the Connecticut perspective and she wanted to be sure that the overall mission of flood control is maintained. She suggested that at some point, when they are clear about what they are going to do, we might like to have them come to one of our meetings to talk about it.

Gary said he understood that we have no money to undertake a major study, but he doesn't think the issue is going to go away. In the governor's office the issue isn't whether the evaluation is correct; it's that there hasn't been any increase in over 25 years. Barbara said the issue is that we have 0-based budgeting and there isn't any way to get money. Gary said they're facing the same thing, but it's hard to defend that they haven't had any increase at all.

At this point, Denise said we should welcome Martha King (who had just arrived) and introduce ourselves. Martha will be taking Gene's place on the Commission. She is Director of Waterways for the DCR in Massachusetts.

There weren't any changes to the Draft Budget, so it was approved as presented.

Evan stated he has been Chairman for two years and it is time for him to turn over the Chairmanship to someone else. Therefore he appointed Gary Moore, Coordinator, Fred Parker and Mike Misslin to oversee the process of selection.

Date of next meeting is September 25, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.