

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 September 19, 2008.

PRESENT:

Connecticut	Commissioner Charles Berger Commissioner Denise Ruzicka (by phone) Proxy – Commissioner Barbara Ruhe
Massachusetts	Commissioner Michael Misslin Commissioner Eugene Cavanaugh Martha C. King
New Hampshire	Commissioner Fred Parker Commissioner Robert Kline Commissioner Robert Grimley
Vermont	Commissioner Evan Hammond Commissioner William Pettengill Commissioner Gary Moore

1. Agenda #1 – Acceptance of Minutes of June 20, 2008 meeting

Motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously, with Robert Kline abstaining, to accept the Minutes as presented.

Agenda 1(b) – need to find new member from Massachusetts to complement Board

Mike Misslin said Commissioner Sullivan referred the request to Governor Patrick, but there hasn't been any response.

Agenda 1c – Perusal of Budget changes and acceptance of such.

Denise, on a conference call, said she had checked the Budget and didn't see anything that needed changing. Evan called for a vote and the Budget was accepted.

(Mike Misslin, who had attended the national conference said he wanted to tell Denise that she won an award!)

2. Agenda # 2 – New Business

- 1) Support Money has been received from NH & VT. Nothing from CT or MA. Denise thought money would be coming soon; Mike Misslin said support money would probably be coming from Ann Monally by the end of the month.
- 2) No information forthcoming from Corps of Engineers
 - 2b) Discussion re next step

Mike Misslin stated that the new Executive Officer is a civilian; his name is Stephen Andon. Mike was told that the reason we didn't get any answer to our request before is that the Corps, in dealing with something else involving a levee issue and flood insurance had gotten sucked into a

mess. So they were leery of helping us. Then there was a change of colonels and Colonel Feir came on board. Bob Bryant told Mike there isn't any problem – they just have to get Feir up to speed.

Evan read the letter (of July 08 that he had originally sent to the new colonel). The Commissioners decided to send the letter to Mr. Andon and ask for a visit. Mike Misslin requested that he be notified when the letter went to Mr. Andon so Mike could follow up with him.

Agenda #2 – New Business

3.) Bill Pettingill stated that the figure for mileage paid had changed to \$.585, which is the current federal rate. Motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to raise our rate to \$.585.

Agenda # 4- Any other business to come before the Commission

Evan, Bob and Fred met with the Wethersfield, VT Selectmen on July 9 in regard to their request for more money. Others present were the Town Manager, Reporter from the Valley News, Representative Rick Huby, selectmen from 2 other towns and a Representative from Northfield, VT.

The Commissioners told the group that we don't have authority to demand that Massachusetts and Connecticut pay VT and NH more money. Mike Misslin said that Governor Patrick's lawyer is familiar with the situation. Among their complaints were "the dams didn't do anything for them", "the Corps wouldn't do anything for them" etc. The Commissioners reiterated that we are a Commission of four states and it is our job to promote comity between the states. We need to continue to meet with the Corps. Gary said payment in lieu of taxes is under attack every where. Someone suggested that maybe they could recruit students from some of the colleges to look into the matter.

Chuck called Polly's attention to the following: if a letter is directed to the office and it mentions anything about the **Freedom of Information Act**, usually you have to act on their letter within 4 days. To get around that 4 day requirement, reply immediately and say that you have received their letter and will respond accordingly.

If someone calls and requests to examine our files, ask for a formal request and make a copy of it. Nothing original can go out of the office and they must pay our employee salary and mileage. Normal business hours are up to Polly or whoever would be working.

Agenda #5 – Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be held on December 5, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at the MA DCR meeting room in Northampton. If we learn that others will be attending, we may have to find another meeting place.

Agenda #6 - Adjournment

Motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously.

*Connecticut River Valley
Flood Control Commission*

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October 4, 2008

**EXCERPT OF MINUTES SHOWING ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS
MEETING AS CORRECTED**

RESOLVED, That the minutes of the meeting of the Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission, held on the 19th day of September, 2008, be and they are hereby adopted and approved in their entirety, **except that the words**, “Bill Pettingill stated that the figure for mileage paid had changed to \$.585, which is the current federal rate. Motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to raise our rate to \$.585” **be eliminated from the resolution contained therein.**

The following should be substituted: Bill Pettingill made his original motion to raise the reimbursement and Gary Moore suggested we simply tie it to the federal rate. We voted to set the reimbursement rate at the federal rate so that we don't have to vote each time it changes. This year it has changed several times. Currently it is \$.585, but by the time of our next meeting it may be lower as the price of gas is dropping, or it could go the other way if things go sour.