



Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting

Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2019

300 Interstate Corporate Center, Suite 200, Williston, VT

In attendance: Kristen Balschunat, Gianna Petito, Mike Raboin, Lawrence Rowley, Paul Hartshorn, Rick Hopkins, Jeff Cueto, Marybeth Whitten (NRCS), Karen Bates (DEC)

9:00am Rick called meeting to order

9:00am **Supervisor and Staff Sharing:** Distributed district contact sheet

9:05am **Financial report:** Somara from Council has been meeting with District Managers to discuss improving budgets by understanding the delayed revenue to better calculate district profits. We might use an accrual-based system to track deferred revenue. Improve financial reports to the board. Next month Gianna will add % of time charge to General District vs. time charged to grants. This month something new is “net assets.” The full shift will occur in the new fiscal year. Currently, Cherie and Gianna are re-labelling and re-coding tracking sheets to prepare for a shift to a more accrual-based system in FY19. Motion by Jeff to approve, seconded by Paul. All in favor.

9:15am **Guest Speaker:** Karen Bates: ANR Watershed Management Division, Tactical Basin Planner (Missisquoi Basin, Winooski Basin and Northern Lake Champlain Direct). Kickoff of Direct to Lake (Basin 5) planning process. Looked at a map of the area within our District. Focus on Allen Brook in Milton and Mallets Bay (WNRCD is one of the few organizations active in water quality project implementation in this area). New landslide assessment protocol. How do landslides impact streambank stabilization? Emphasis on identifying (and possibly re-classifying) high-quality waters to maintain trout habitat. Will be signed September 2020. Brief conversation about the road erosion inventory.

10:00 Marybeth commented that NRCS is also focusing on strategic watersheds for phosphorus reduction based on farmers adopting conservation practices. Marybeth manages East Creek and Mackenzie Brooks. General enthusiasm about adopting cover crops and no-till in the agriculture community has been a major positive for water quality in the basin. Noted general trend in NRCS applications decreasing, speculated that because of the price of milk farmers don't feel financially prepared to cost share on conservation practices.

10:10 **NRCS Agency Updates:** NRCS is funded through Feb 15th. New soil conservationist will be hired in Williston office. NRCS is waiting for the official policy to trickle down from interpretation of the farm bill. NRCS has been given funding to continue projects from last year. New projects that may be enacted immediately - Progressive Planning - able to take on smaller projects for individuals without a whole-farm plan. Hoping to start approving contracts by Feb 5. NRCS has a booth at the farm show. 2 new soil cons in Orleans.

10:20 **Approve minutes:** Motion to approve December 12 minutes as presented by Paul, seconded by Jeff. All in favor.

10:30 **Staff Project Updates** (see handout) Rick will look into options for labeling the aerator

11:30 **NRCC Updates:** Project development grant, Tactical Basin Planning Grant is in place, assessing details about governor's budget address, Somara is helping all districts improve bookkeeping.

Next board meeting date: March 12 9-noon, Berlin office

11:36 Motion to adjourn by Paul, seconded by Jeff