



# Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

July 16th, 2019 9am-12:15pm  
300 Interstate Corporate Center, Williston VT 05495

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**Attendees:** Gianna Petito, Kristen Balschunat, Rick Hopkins, Paul Hartshorn, Jeff Cueto, Lawrence Rowley, Marybeth Whitten (NRCS), Paula Cope (COPE Associates), Paul Dicken (COPE Associates)

**9:00 NRCS Updates:** John Thurgood is the point of contact for questions and comments on the NRCS MOA. The MOA applies to all districts, not just WNRCD. Round 3 producers have been decided. Conservation Stewardship Program ranking will happen this Friday (43 people applied, NRCS has asked for more funding and did receive it from national). More funding was also obtained for emergency projects. EQIP funding is running out for the fiscal year - more funding has been requested, but was not granted. NRCS strongly encourages farmers to apply this time of year so that field work can be completed before the snow flies. A new mapping and ranking system will be adopted because of the Farm Bill. New Pathways student in central zone. Discussion about the LEAN meeting regarding the MOU with VACD.

**9:13 NRCC Updates:** No new NRCC meetings have occurred since the last board meeting.

**9:14 Supervisor and Staff Sharing:** None

**9:15 Minutes:** Motion by Jeff to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2019 and June 18, 2019 meetings. Seconded by Paul. All in favor. Motion carries.

**9:20 FY20 Budget Review:** Changes from last month - AgCWIP invoice was paid out, so it has been added to starting assets for FY20. A few new projects have been added to the Anticipated Contracts/Grants column. USFW pass-through money will not be reported in the budget, except for the 10% admin fee that directly applies to WNRCD. Brief discussion about S.96 and Gianna's potential role in the legislature. Motion by Paul to approve the budget as presented. Seconded by Jeff. All in favor. Motion passes.

**10:00 Staff Progress Report Highlights:** See staff report

**9:50 NRCS MOA Discussion:** Feedback is due July 25th. Send questions or comments to Gianna.

**10:30 COPE Strategic Planning Launch:**

- Paul and Paula helped the board and staff brainstorm questions to discuss at the next strategic planning meeting.
- See Agenda for more details
- Next Steps: COPE will create focus questions and will communicate with Gianna. Gianna will communicate with the Board.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, August 13th, 2019 - 9am - Berlin Office

**12:15 Adjourn** Motion by Paul, seconded by Lawrence. All in favor. Motion carries.