



Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2019 9am-12pm
300 Interstate Corporate Center, Williston

Attendees: Gianna Petito, Kristen Balschunat, Lawrence Rowley, Jeff Cueto, Paul Hartshorn, Rick Hopkins, Russ Barrett

9:00 Rick called the meeting to order

9:01 NRCS Updates were emailed last week by Marybeth Whitten

9:02 NRCC Updates

- Ag Water Qualities Manager Position has been filled with a new candidate
- Non-Ag WQ Manager working on distributing grants to Districts
- Bookkeeper facilitating payment between Council and Districts
- Determining budget for next year - invitation to join the meeting on June 4 in Montpelier
- Financially council is in a good shape

9:05 Supervisor and Staff Sharing - Kristen shared article about chloride sampling in New Hampshire showing correlation between high chloride levels and elevated amounts of cadmium, copper, zinc, lead and arsenic in groundwater. Kristen noted change in the location of their water sampling lab. Kristen and Gianna shared the 2018 Stream Team Water Quality Monitoring Report with the Board. Discussion about snow removal strategies in Montpelier - some snow is dumped over roads/bridges/parking lot edges into the river and is loaded with salt or sand. VTRANS changed their policy from “bare roads” to “safe roads” to decrease pollutant loading. Rick mentioned that East Montpelier is considering creating a Conservation Commission.

9:30 Business Items

- Minutes: Russ asked about the EAB inventory scoping - WNRCD may be able to collaborate with RPCs to help complete roadside ash tree inventories. Russ mentioned that Northfield has a grant to complete the inventory. Motion by Paul to approve minutes from 3/26/19 meeting seconded by Jeff, all in favor. Motion carried.
- Financial Report: Discussion - Gianna and Cherie are still working with Somara to improve the reporting format to make the budget as clear as possible. Motion by Pal to approve

financial report from 4/30/19 seconded by Russ. Motion carried. Thanks to Cherie for working through the new system.

9:30 Staff Report

- Cherie does not have access to internet at the office, so receipts need to be submitted a few days before she is in the office.
 - Staff will work on finding a federal computer for Cherie so she can still access the internet in the office.
- Gianna had some funding from Council to engage with S.96 at the Statehouse
- Strategic Planning funding has been secured. Two contractors have put in bids.
- Tree and Trout Sale: Successful event
 - Raised about \$1,500: Staff will report income and expenses at the next meeting. Money will be used to cover food for septic conference.
 - Lawrence mentioned that Anne, our main volunteer from Keurig should receive acknowledgement at the Annual Dinner
 - Thanks to all Board members for helping, especially Jeff who helped for 3 days with the set-up, tree sale day and trout sale day.
 - In light of EAB damage, we should remind Towns about our 2020 Tree Sale
- Grant Writing Updates:
 - NRCC has secured a Project Development Fund. WNRCD staff will apply for some of that funding for projects listed in the staff report.
 - NRCC has secured a Block Grant for Design and Implementation for \$925,000
- Intern Caitlin Maloney is working on a website audit
- WNRCD is hiring Riley Groll as an intern to help with agricultural water quality field work. We plan to share a \$500 stipend at the end of the term. We are working on creating a stronger internship program with a more academic focus.
- WNRCD will be a local host for a Streambank Erosion Control Day on June 12 in Richmond. It will focus on bioengineering options. We could use help from the Board to advertise the event.
- Discussion about hydrology at Texas Hill Culvert project site. Some neighbors are concerned about the impact of the project. They have been referred to FEMA for further assistance.
- Trees for Stream update: 1,000 trees have been planted, 300 to go. Many sites have already been identified for next year.
- Basin Planning: Grant is running low for FY19. Helping to create an ag working group for Basin 5 in partnership with Karen.
- Septic: 2 national magazines have requested to cover the event. Septic socials are upcoming in Lake Communities. Interested communities: Lake Iroquois, Town of Huntington, Town of Calais. Looking for a fourth.
- Conservation Commission Training - 4 attendees, great speakers, good conversations. In the future we would rather meet one-on-one with Commissions than host large conferences.

Those who did attend were very engaged and have plans to implement new projects in their communities. It was also a great networking opportunity.

- Shady Rill - Seeking match from Town for project. Not sure if we will have the funding to implement the 100% design. Working on creative solutions
- Shady Rill Road - Closeout meeting early June
- Ag Update - lots of work moving forward.
 - Soil sampling for old NMP class attendees
 - Recruiting farmers for RCCP 2019-20
 - Working on equine outreach
 - Scheduling Kitchen Table Talks

11:10 Strategic Planning Bids

- Let Gianna know on or before next Tuesday which bid you prefer
- Talked about the values of writing a strategic plan for the purposes of on-boarding new staff, prioritizing projects and securing grants.
- Jeff suggested setting up a conference call to discuss candidates - Call will take place at 8:30 on May 28. Gianna will provide call-in information.

11:30 S.96 Updates

- The bill has passed the Senate and House - still determining how to fund and distribute
- The Clean Water Service Provider has not yet been determined - this determination may change the role of the District if we are appointed as the CWSP. Staff will provide further updates at the next board meeting.

11:45 Next meeting will be at the BERLIN office Tuesday, June 18th 9-12

12:00 Paul makes motion to adjourn, seconded by Lawrence. Motion carries.