



# Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2018  
617 Comstock Rd, Berlin, VT

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In attendance - Hopkins, Cueto, Rowley, Barrett, Hartshorn. Staff - Petito, Balschunat (via phone). Guests - Witten.

### Business Items

Chair welcomed Gianna as new DM especially to those in attendance who had not met her since she assumed her position.

Vice-chair suggested that WNRCD take steps to recognize Corrina Parnapy, former DM, and Don Hipes, long serving associate supervisor. Discussion ensued about doing that at a joint Winooski NRCD / White River NRCD holiday luncheon in December. Possible dates as 12/11, 12/12 or 12/13. Petito to follow up with WRNRCD. Corrina and Don are to be recognized at VACD meeting on 10/24/18.

Minutes of 8/14/18 meeting. Motion by Cueto to approved as amended, second by Rowley. Motion carried.

Financial report (dated 9/30/18). DM Petito presented & explained financial report. DM Petito asked members to contact her regarding planning for 2019 tree & trout sale. DM Petito will contact Mike Raboin.

Staff report. Gianna and Kristen presented and took questions about particular aspects of the staff report.

Supervisor elections, tree/trout sale, annual report, annual appeal.

Petitions for one supervisor position ongoing. Petitions due by 11/12/18. Annual report discussed with members agreeing to prepare document for release in June 2018. Discussion ensued about the challenges behind annual appeal. Members agreed that having an amount of unrestricted funds from towns, landowners, businesses would build NRCD capacity.

Signing authority. DM Petito presented associated material from Poultney-Mettowee NRCD. Discussion ensued about granting signature authority to DM for limited situations affecting grants, MOU, contracts. Petito to work up a draft NRCD financial and business policy document for review at next meeting.

Strategic plan.

Members in attendance recalled a strategic planning process several years ago involving a facilitator but no plan produced. Members agreed a current strategic plan covering a 5 to 7 year period is needed and would benefit NRCD operations. Members encouraged DM to look into and submit a capacity building proposal to LCBP. If funded, funds could be used to help pay for a facilitator and cover time spent by staff on plan preparation.

NRCC updates.

Hopkins provided an update on NRCC activities mentioning FY19 budget (\$1.2 million), soon to be hired WQ program manager and basin planning work by the 14 NRCDs.

NRCS updates.

Witten mentioned the lack of a new Farm Bill which is complicating programming and program delivery. No FFY19 funds authorized for AMA and CSP. FFY19 funds available for EQIP. VACD annual meeting slated for 10/24 and 10/25. Discussion turned to Local Work Group. Last LWG meeting in Winooski NRCD was 2016. Witten explained ranking tool and use of a survey to assess NRCD needs/interests. Motion by Barrett, second by Hartshorn to rely only on existing questions in ranking tool (no survey, no meeting). Motion carried.

Next NRCD meeting will be TH NOV 15, 2018 at 0900 in Williston.

Adjourn. Motion by Cueto, second by Barrett. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 1218 pm.