



Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2023 9:00 - 12:00pm

In Person: Berlin Office, 617 Comstock Rd. Berlin, VT

Attendees: Remy Crettol (WNRCD District Manager), Kat Lewis (WNRCD Ag Specialist), Adelaide Dumm (WNRCD Conservation Specialist), Cherie Staples (Bookkeeper), Rick Hopkins (Supervisor), Rich Turner (Treasurer), Nancy Everhart (Associate Supervisor), Jeff Cuteo (Associate Supervisor), Paul Hartshorn (Secretary Supervisor)(Joined Online), Oliver Pierson (Supervisor)(Joined Online), Russ Barrett (Vice Chair)(Joined Online)

9:09 Meeting Called to Order

9:10 NRCS Update

- No attendance from Marybeth

9:17 NRCC Update- Rick Hopkins

- Had a meeting on February 8, 2023 after a longer hiatus with the previous meeting being in November 2022
- Approved budget for FY23
 - \$2.9 Million
- Increased funding to \$362,000 divided by each district → Historically has been at ~\$112,000 each year
 - Winooski used some of the requested capital funds to purchase new computers, printer, monitors, additional tech needed for remote work, and tree planting supplies (shovel, portable water pump)
 - Have ~\$1,200 left in funds. Started with \$5,500
- FY24 → Council put in request for \$3million
 - If fully authorized → Over \$1 million to be split between all districts
- Council now has district manager reps (Cory Ross and Sarah Damsell)
 - Gives council new representation on what districts actually want
 - New discussion on increasing pay to keep staff longer and compensate them fairly
- Jill Arace is forming a board for VACD
 - 1 supervisor to represent each district
 - 8 out of 14 districts are interested in creating a board so will move forward with request
 - Strong interest from Nancy to be the representative for Winooski on this VACD board
- Question was asked during the board meeting on the future of the DEC block grants?
 - Rick mentioned that no further discussion was had at NRCC meeting
 - Looks like the Clean Water Service Providers will be the new route of funding

9:30 Business Items

- Approved Winooski NRCD meeting minutes from December as amended
 - Motion to approve by Rich, seconded by Paul
- Approved November and December Financial Reports



- Motion to approve with amendments for November and December financial reports made by Rich, seconded by Paul
- Reviewed invoice tracking spreadsheet
 - Many grants closed out to get financials as up to date as possible for new DM

10:20 Discussion Items

- Vote for VACD Supervisor to represent Winooski
 - Motion to approve made by Russ, seconded by Rich to appoint Nancy Everhart to VACD board
- Vote for Rick Hopkins to be appointed for board supervisor for another 5 years
 - Motion to approve by Rich, Seconded by Russ.
- DM Hiring Update
 - Application still open but to be closed this week
 - Will continue with interviews past Remy's departure
- Bookkeeper hiring update
 - 11 applications received for bookkeeper
 - Rick, Claire, and Cherie on hiring board
 - Decided on 4 applicants -> 3 are interested in scheduling interviews

10:57 Legislative Event

- Had successful event
- Next steps -> One on one meetings with the legislators
 - Jennifer and Hillary are available to attend these events if no new DM in place
 - Only focused on house and senate members who sit on the board of the appropriations request committee, ag committee or environmental committee

11:23 Staff Updates- See Report

12:15 Supervisor and Staff Sharing Opportunity

12:20 Motion to Adjourn Meeting

- Motioned by Rich, seconded by Russ