



# Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2024 12:30 - 3:00pm  
In Person: Berlin Office + Zoom Option

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### Attendees:

**In Person:** Adelaide Dumm (WNRC District Manager), Kat Lewis (Agricultural Specialist), Pat Richardson (Bookkeeper), Macie Broussard (Conservation Specialist), Nancy Everhart (Supervisor), Rich Turner (Treasurer), Jeff Cueto (Associate Supervisor)

**Online:** Rick Hopkins (Chair Supervisor), Russ Barrett (Vice Chair), Marybeth Whitten (NRCS)

### 12:34 Meeting Called to Order

- Introductions

### 12:44 NRCS Update- Marybeth Whitten

- Danny Peet retiring after 27 years on Thursday February 29th
- Survey Results for NRCS local workgroup needed by April 12th
- Civil rights training needs to be scheduled for a board meeting in the coming months
- First round of CSP's just got pre approved and farmers will be notified of awards soon
- EQIP deadlines got pushed back 2 weeks to now be due March 29th
- The noise complain in the Berlin office is being addressed due to the daycare located nextdoor

### 12:53 NRCC Update- Rick Hopkins

- Overview of council, consists of 6 staff who are all supervisory union reps in addition to 1 rep each from ANR, UVM Extension, and VAAF (9 voting members total). Receive money from the State and distributes it to the districts. NRCS is only an advisory member and not a voting member for council
- Last council meeting was in October but there is movement to have a March meeting
  - Finance committee still meets once a month to go over finances, grants, and money received to distribute that to districts
- Council submitted request for FY25 to legislators for \$3 million for operational funds as well as a \$2 million capital request
  - Previously awarded \$612,000 last year when we also asked for \$3 million.
  - This funding request would cover 1 FTE at each district + a staff person at council
  - Districts were in the governor's budget for ~\$500,000. This is less than last year. Been an uphill battle. Adelaide has been meeting with the legislators to promote the district and get them thinking about all of the work we do.

### 12:58 Business Items

- Approve December meeting minutes
  - Motion to approve made by Rich. seconded by Nancy.

- Finance documents presented by Pat
  - Make note that the Fish & Wildlife grants for Hands Mill are received by us but we pass them right through to the contractors of Hands Mill.
  - Looking at finding a way to get VACD to get invoices paid to us sooner
  - Motion to approve financial documents as presented made by Rich and seconded by Russ
- Discussion to replace Oliver's spot as the Basin 5 water quality council alternate
  - Rich Turner agreed to be the alternate for Basin 5 and will attend if Adelaide is unavailable.

#### 1:27 Staff Updates

- Supervisory Union Meeting with White River Junction
  - Rick is central supervisory union rep with White River NRCD.
    - Could we potentially merge with another supervisory union and dissolve the union with White River as we don't share any boundaries or grants with them?

#### 1:50 DEI Goals

- Organizational Cultural and Safe Space Culture
- Winooski NRCD has scored ourselves on the baseline
- Training opportunities
  - NRCS trainings for civil rights
  - League of City and Towns
  - State trainings through State personal
  - AgLearn Trainings
  - NACD DEI website
- How do we practice DEI?
  - We are all bringing our own perspectives to the table.

**Went into executive session at 2:30**

**Came out of executive session 3:30**

**Actions out of executive session :** Nancy makes a motion to increase the wage of Agriculture Specialists to \$24.02 effective immediately, Rich seconds motion.

- Meeting adjourned.