

Present: Daton Fleury, Richard Noel, Jeannie Bartlett, Brodie Haenke, Liza Lemieux,

9:48 Minutes reviewed.

Richard makes a motion to accept the minutes as printed, preliminarily approved.

Wynea will not give the Civil Rights training today due to low attendance.

Discussion of financial report. District has \$47,910.36 as of September 30. Question from Richard as to whether having money in the bank will jeopardize our eligibility for future grants. Assurance from Jeannie that our grant awards are based on performance and deliverables, not our financial situation. Preliminarily approved financial reports.

Discussion of staff hours tracking under grants. We are underspending on our grants so far this year, due in some part to Jeannie being on leave for 4 weeks.

Discussion of signs project. It's picking up press! Richard saw it in Lancaster Farming and the County Courier.

Discussion of NRCC meeting. Richard reported on signs project. Discussion of activities in other districts.

10:18 Phil arrived.

10:18 Discussion of tile drain study. Supervisors asked questions about what we sample for in the tile drain study, and what our results have shown so far. Most sites have been low, but one with high soil-test phosphorus has been consistently high. All sites also showed a spike in phosphorus during snowmelt during the spring. Discussion of possible end-of-tile treatment systems. Richard says roads use these all the time, they're called "Drainage Inlets" or "DI's."

10:25 Richard makes a motion, Phil seconds minutes. Approved.

10:25 Phil makes a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Richard seconds. Approved.

10:28 Phil is up for re-appointment. Distributed petition for him.

10:29 Richard makes a motion to approve the NRCC Core Services agreement. Phil seconds. Approved. Daton signed the agreement.

10:35 Announcement of annual VACD meeting in Middlebury. Richard likely won't be able to make it. Jeannie will call around at registration time to get confirmation from supervisors.

10:38 Announcement of October 30 Ag WQ Partners NW.

10:38 NRCS Update from Wynea. Concluded FY18 at the USDA. Wynea gave us the numbers on NRCS accomplishments that FY. Completed about 70 contracts and made payments of about \$2.5 million in the NW Zone. On Friday NRCS initiated Emergency EQIP for Franklin, Lamoille and Grand Isle counties for drought assistance. Accepting applications until October 19<sup>th</sup>. No assistance for practices that have already been completed. Recognition that this grant program is coming extremely late in the season to help many people. Just hired a new Soil Conservationist – it will be Lauren who has been working here for VACD. Olivia left VACD recently, and they are currently working to fill her position. The Agency of Ag engineering position held interviews last week, but when hired they will work out of the Williston office for some time.

10:50 Jeannie asked for Board perspectives on hiring the LTP, what priorities are. Prioritize applicants who have on-farm experience.

10:56 Wynea asked the Board what they would like from her. She is accustomed to prioritizing attendance at Board meetings. Supervisors would like to continue to receive information on the status of programs, applications and funding, as well as staffing updates. Board also appreciates her being ears to their perspectives.

10:58 Brodie updated the Board on his work on dam removals. Has been working with Brian Fitzgerald from the VT Natural Resources Council. Board noted that functional dams are important natural resources. Part of Brodie's prioritization was choosing dams that are not serving a function anymore. Two dam owners have expressed interest in learning more about dam removal. Site visit with professionals at one site next week.

11:04 Brodie reported his work with one farmer to try to install a Grassed Waterway. For Hungerford Brook water quality monitoring project, Brodie is particularly working with one producer where the site is showing elevated phosphorus and nitrogen. Tomorrow Brodie and the producer will take extra samples to help pinpoint the source.

11:10 Brodie left.

11:12 Discussion of scholarship program. Only one application was received. Ginny Fleury commented that the Richford scholarship has trouble with applicants too. Phil makes a motion to award Chase Deyette a scholarship of \$500. Richard seconds. Approved. Jeannie needs to receive some official documentation from VTC that he is attending, and then she can disburse to him in October. Interest in continuing the program after current revenues expire.

11:19 Discussion of Local Working Group process. Wynea brought this survey process from her previous experiences – using a survey to solicit input from local landowners. Phil appreciates this initiative. Supervisor comments that there are two different kinds of farming going on here – those who need fences and laneways mostly, and those who need manure injection systems and barnyard improvements. Wynea commented that we can also prioritize by geographic area – for example by watershed. Brodie asked why tree planting and riparian restoration is not listed as a practice. Next year we can send this out in the newsletter or at the tree sale. Liza suggested making an online version.

11:33 Next meeting set for 9:30 on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

11:40 Meeting adjourned.

Follow-up:

- Jeannie will schedule a Civil Rights training for the Board from Wynea.
  - Jeannie will dig into our accounts to figure out where our \$10,000 gain opening FY18 came from.
  - Jeannie will reach out to Kevin King through Marli to learn about tile drainage for a potential workshop.
  - Jeannie will get Nature Guide done and get it to Richard before Sept 11<sup>th</sup> NRCC meetings.
  - Brodie will help get signs on a farm on the Franklin-Highgate Rd.
  - Richard will confirm that Field Days will give us last spring's rent in exchange for Sponsorship recognition.
  - Jeannie will update Harvest Equip's number on the newsletter to 802-868-4184
  - Jeannie will add something about being prepared for tree sale distribution day to the work plan.
- 
- Disburse scholarship to Chase Deyette.