

**Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2019**

Supervisors Present: Bridget Bowen, Ted Grembowicz, Mike Pedone and Alan Shelvey

Also Present: Nanci McGuire, Marian Jordan and Jennifer Alexander

Meeting called to order at: 9:40 a.m.

Minutes from the March Meeting were approved.

Financial Report for March was reviewed, discussed and then approved.

District Manager Report: (Nanci McGuire)

Discussion on:

VT Envirothon Statewide Competition – Wednesday, May 22 at VT Technical College. Current issue is *Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World* (see attached).

Town of Rutland Flow Restoration Plan – Watershed Consulting has drafted an MOU between the Town and the Rutland RPC. The RPC is looking this over and might be interested in contracting with us to do public involvement and participation i.e., rain barrel making, adopt a rain garden program, storm drain stenciling, stream monitoring, river clean up, lawn care workshop, downspout disconnection training etc.

RNRCD Tree Sale – Some of the inventory will come either today or tomorrow and the rest will be here on Tuesday, April 23. Pick up is Saturday, April 27 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. I will need all of the help that I can get on Saturday PLEASE.

Vermont's Plan to Pay for Clean Water Article – Nanci handed out copies of this.

VACD Voting Board Member – Jill sent an email asking me to confirm who RNRCD's voting board member is? They are not getting a quorum for VACD Full Board Meetings. Jill would like to communicate with the Full Board via email. After much discussion it was decided that at this time the RNRCD does not have a Board Member who has time to be on the VACD Full Board.

Trout Sale – Pick up will be Saturday, May 18 at 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

GRANTS:

NRCC Block Grant DEC- We have received a conceptual design for a practice at Rotary Park.

NRCS Update: (Marian Jordan)

Conservation Programs:

- We have ~60 applications pre-approved across a number of funding pools. Area staff are currently working to prepare these applications for obligation.
- Approximately 20 or so pre-approved applications have been obligated.
- We are also working on eligibility with other customers to prepare for the next round, Round 3, of pre-approvals.
- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) funds have been released. Any applications submitted prior to March 22, 2019 will be considered this year in Round 3.
- Conservation Stewardship Program: The state office is encouraging field offices to help increase our CSP numbers by 10-20%. We have met that goal. The South Zone has ~13 new applications thus far. [Postcard provided.]

- Interest is still being expressed, as customers are wanting to learn more about the program. Deadline to apply is May 10th
- Any pre-approved CSP applications must be obligated by September 6, 2019.
- Wetland Reserve Easements: we currently have ~3 new applications. The has begun reviewing applications.

Outreach:

- Our staff will soon begin working on a plan to increase program participation for smaller farms in the area. We will focus also on increasing our presence, and program participation in Bennington County.

Staffing Update:

- We have a new Soil Conservationist in Rutland. His name is Tim Brosnan. He started on Monday.
- We will have a new Program assistant and another Soil Conservationist in the Rutland office. They are expected to begin on April 29th. The Brattleboro position will be re-advertised.
- The state has advertised for two Pathways intern—for engineering and soil conservation. S/he will work in another zone.

Ag Specialist Update: (Stefano provided a written report):

Reports that Stefano has been working on.

Trainings and Meetings that Stefano has attended.

Nutrient Management Planning and Implementation.

Continued Education.

Other.

ACAP Update: (Jennifer Alexander)

Jennifer Reported on:

Stefano’s probationary period is over, and he is now a permanent employee.

Meetings and trainings that Jennifer has attended.

Nutrient Management Planning and implementation.

Other.

Other Business:

RNRCD 2019 Annual Meeting – Monday, May 13 at Clarendon Grange Hall from 5:30 until 7:30 or 8:00 p.m.

1 hr. presentation regarding Growing Hemp in VT by Stefano Pinna.

Presentation on Districts FY 2018 program/projects.

FSA Update: Tina Williams provided a written report.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.