

**Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2018**

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

Also Present: Nanci McGuire and Marian Jordan

Meeting called to order at: 9:35 a.m.

Minutes from the November Meeting were approved.

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

VACD Dues for FY2019 – A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Alan to pay \$1,055 when the invoice is received. This was then voted on and the motion passed.

NACD Dues for FY2019 – A motion was made by Alan and seconded by Ted to pay \$400. This was voted on and the motion passed.

Grant Financials for September – November were reviewed, discussed and then approved.

District Manager Report: (Nanci McGuire)

Discussion on:

Supervisor Elections – A motion was made by Ted and seconded by Mike to re-elect Alan Shelvey to the RNRCD Board for 2019-2023. This was then voted on and the motion passed.

Stafford Technical Center Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting – I attended this meeting on December 4.

Letters to Towns for FY2019 Support – I sent letters to each Town in our District on December 3 along with a summary of our activities for FY2018 for them to put in their Town Reports. The request was for the same amount as it has been for years (\$250). I know that there are at least two Towns (Danby and Ira) that are asking for a petition to be signed for the Article to be placed on the warning. Mike volunteered to take petitions to Ira and Danby.

NRCC Full Board Meeting – This meeting is being held TODAY in Montpelier.

District Manager Meeting – I attended this meeting on November 29 in White River.

Office Closure – The office was closed on December 4 “in lieu of” Holiday for National Day of Mourning for President George H. W. Bush.

Tree Sale 2019 – All stock has been ordered and I have received acknowledgments from nurseries. Order forms are ready to go out and this will be posted to the website. Pick up of stock is Saturday, April 27, at the Rutland Town Highway garage from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Water Quality Programs Manager – VACD and NRCC have hired Holden Sparacino to fill this position. Holden will start work in January and will be working 24 hours a week. Holden will be working closely with Kerry O’Brien and Susie Walsh.

GRANTS:

NRCC Block Grant (Tactical Basin Planning) – There will be a Partners Meeting in early January.

I created a work plan and budget for FY2019 and have submitted this to NRCC.

NRCC Block Grant VAAFY FY2019 – Nanci handed out a PMNRCD Fall Newsletter and reports provided by Jennifer and Stefano for November on their activities.

Using Green Stormwater Infrastructure to address Combined Sewer Overflow Mitigation RFP – With Andres with Watershed Consulting Associates help, the City applied for funding to design and implement the West Street Outfall project that was identified in the East Creek and Tenney Brook SWMP.

Developing Public-Private Partnerships (P3) to Meet the Stormwater General Permit for Parcels with > 3 Impervious Acres RFP – Watershed Consulting was notified that they were awarded funding for the proposal that they submitted. Watershed Consulting will attend planning sessions with the Vermont DEC to discuss the 3 Acre Permit and the challenges, opportunities, and limitations for treating runoff from these sites. These planning sessions will set the stage for this project and will help the Vermont DEC as the permit is introduced Statewide.

Landowner outreach will be coordinated by AES Environmental Consulting with support from the RPCs and, where relevant, the RNRCD. The project will be explained to the property owners and the retrofit concepts discussed. The outreach team will ensure that the landowners understand how the 3-acre permit will impact them specifically (if applicable) and fully communicate the environmental benefits of the project as well as the benefits to the community. The outreach team will catalogue landowner interest.

Potential Funding from ANR and LCBP – This funding is to support Conservation Districts’ Project Development needs through 2020. Kerry has been working on submitting a proposal for another NRCC Block Grant and has written RNRCD in for some funding.

ERP FY2018 Homer Stone Brook – Public Meeting on Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wallingford Town Hall to discuss evaluated alternatives.

FSA Update: (Tina Williams)

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) – Maple Sap deadline is December 31, 2018.

Margin Protection Programs (MPP) –

Margins are as follows:		<u>\$8.00 Coverage Level Payment Rate/cwt</u>	
January	\$8.11705	\$0.00	*All Payments are
February	\$6.88349	\$1.11651	sequestered 6.6%
March	\$6.76837	\$1.23163	
April	\$6.61635	\$1.38360	
May	\$6.78093	\$1.21907	*Margins are projected
June	\$7.36521	\$0.63479	to stay above \$8.00 for
July	\$6.71814	\$1.28186	the remainder of calendar
August	\$7.42661	\$0.57338	year 2018.
September	\$8.25756	\$0.00	

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) – December Interest rates are as follows:

- 2.875%** per annum for a **3-year** loan term
- 3.000%** per annum for a **5-year** loan term
- 3.125%** per annum for a **7-year** loan term
- 3.125%** per annum for a **10-year** loan term
- 3.125%** per annum for a **12-year** loan term

MARKET FACILITATION PROGRAM (MFP) -

4 Hog Applications have been received. More applications will be received when corn and soybeans harvest is complete. The 2nd round was supposed to be announced around December 3rd so we are awaiting the payment rates.

Administrative –We advertised 3 FLOT positions (2 for St Albans and 1 for Newport). Next to be advertised is the Farm Loan Program Specialist in Colchester, a Program Technician in White River Junction which is now permanent shared management with Windham County. Farm Loan Manager in Middlebury Gary Braman is retiring December 31, 2018.

2014 Farm Bill expired September 30, 2018 and we are operating under a Continuing Resolution that expires December 21, 2018.

Leases - GSA is finally working on leases, Rutland is the first to be worked on in Vermont. Appears we will be able to do an extension, more to come.

Next County Committee Meeting is Wednesday January 16, 2019 10:30am.

NRCS Update: (Marian Jordan)

Conservation Programs - We have ~28 applications pre-approved across several fund pools. Area staff are currently working to prepare these applications for obligation.

We are also working on eligibility with other customers to prepare for the next round of pre-approvals.

FPAC - A lot of restructuring, changes to how we do things; we want to have a more stream-lined service that continues to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of our customers.

Also, there are changes coming to how our conservation programs are managed. More information to follow at a later date.

Staffing Update - We interviewed for 2 Soil Conservationist positions in Rutland and 1 in Brattleboro. We are waiting to hear from HR.

A tentative job offer was presented to a candidate for the Program Assistant position. We are waiting to hear from HR.

The state has advertised for a Pathways intern. S/he will work in another zone.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.