

**Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2018**

Supervisors Present: Bridget Bowen, Mike Pedone and Alan Shelvey

Also Present: Nanci McGuire, Tina Williams, Marian Jordan, Jennifer Alexander and Stefano Pinna

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

Minutes from the October 3, RNRCD Board Meeting were approved.

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

District Manager Report: (Nanci McGuire)

Discussion on:

Regional Ag Water Quality Partners Meeting- I attended this meeting on October 16, at the Forest Service. This was WELL ATTENDED. I have not received notes yet. Susie should be sending these soon.

VACD Annual Meeting (GSI Training in Rutland) – I attended the GSI Training on October 24 at the Forest Service here in Rutland and Alan and Mike attended October 25 at the Middlebury Inn. We toured the bioretention project at Giorgetti Park as part of the GSI Training.

Supervisor Elections – Deadline for submitting nominating petition forms is November 12 and elections will be held on November 27, 2018.

Locally Led Conservation Survey for the South Zone – NRCS District Conservationist, Marian asked me to share this survey with local workgroup folks in our District. I received a few back and shared these with Marian.

VT Envirothon – 2019 Current Issue is Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World.

GRANTS:

NRCC Block Grant (Tactical Basin Planning) – The next partners meeting is scheduled for November 16 at 11:00 a.m. at Angie's office.

NRCC Block Grant (VAAFY2018) – The District sponsored a workshop on Thursday, October 18 at Evening Song Farm in Shrewsbury. There was a GREAT turnout and excellent discussion.

NRCC Block Grant (ANR) – Watershed Consulting Associates is currently working on a design for a bioretention practice at Rotary Park.

ERP FY2018 Moon Brook SWMP – I requested an extension on this grant from May 1, 2019 until December 31, 2019 and the request was approved. I have also amended the agreement that we have with Watershed Consulting to do this work. When we met with Jeff Wennberg, Jim Rotondo and Ted with the City, Jeff was very interested in MANY of the projects and was willing to do the outreach to landowners. Since then Jeff has announced that he does not have time for this, so it looks like the District and Watershed Consulting will be doing the outreach. We need to choose 3 projects with willing landowners and then complete designs for these 3 projects. Many of these projects are on private land so I am not sure where the funding will come from. I asked Angie about funding for private landowners and she asked if we could discuss this at the November 16 partners meeting.

Using Green Stormwater Infrastructure to address Combined Sewer Overflow Mitigation RFP – Andres with Watershed Consulting Associates and I have participated in 2 teleconferences with Jeff Wennberg and others from the City regarding the possibility of them submitting an application for the design of the project that was identified in the East Creek and Tenney Brook SWMP for the West Street Outfall. Deadline to submit this application to DEC is November 13.

Developing Public-Private Partnerships (P3) to Meet the Stormwater General Permit for Parcels with > 3 Impervious Acres RFP – Watershed Consulting submitted an application for these funds and added the District in to do some of the outreach. The deadline for submitting this proposal was October 26 and DEC plans to notify applicants no later than November 16.

FSA Update: (Tina Williams)

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) – Deadline to purchase coverage for Perennial crops including mixed forage, blueberries, strawberries, etc. is November 20, 2018. Maple Sap is December 31, 2018.

Margin Protection Programs (MPP) –

<u>Margins are as follows:</u>		<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) – November 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

Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) –

National Average Market Price of Corn for 2017 is \$3.36. PLC Payment rate for 2017 Corn is \$.34/bushel. Arc County Payment rate for corn for Rutland County was \$8.20/bushel and Bennington County was \$0.00.

Market Facilitation Program (MFP) -

The Office has paid on 13 Dairy Contracts in Bennington County totaling \$16,774 and 35 contracts in Rutland County Totaling \$43,912. 4 Hog Applications have been received. More applications will be received when corn and soybeans harvest is complete.

Administrative –We have on boarded one FLOT in Newport. We advertised 3 more FLOT positions (2 for St Albans and 1 for Newport). Next to be advertised is a Program Technician in White River Junction which is now permanent shared management with Windham County.

2014 Farm Bill expired September 30, 2018 and we are operating under a Continuing Resolution that expires December 7, 2018.

Next County Committee Meeting - Wednesday December 5, 2018 10:30am. Holiday Potluck is at noon.

NRCS Update: (Marian Jordan)

Conservation Programs:

- Currently have over 100 applications for multiple fund pools for fiscal year 2019.
- We have begun the planning process for at least 20 applications to be considered for the first round of screening and ranking.
- Fund pools for the first round are: 1) CAPS, 2) RCPP, 3) Statewide emergency drought, 4) Statewide Specialty Crops and Seasonal High Tunnels.
- Timeline: Application deadline- October 19, 2018; Ranking deadline- November 23, 2018; Obligation deadline- January 31, 2019.
- The second round includes all fund pools, with Application deadline- 12/14/2018, Ranking deadline- January 25, 2019, and Obligation deadline- May 1, 2019.

Local Resource Concerns/Local Working Group

- Surveys to gather primary resource concerns from partners and producers were sent out by the district managers; some surveys were returned by members of two districts.
- The purpose of the LWG is to discuss and gather resource concerns as identified by the local community that can be used to shape the local ranking questions.
- Local NRCS and the Districts will work together in the upcoming year(s) to plan LWG meetings, or small brainstorming meet-and-greets that will allow for more producer participation and feedback.

Staffing Update

- Our Soil Conservation Technician has accepted a permanent position outside of NRCS. Her last day was November 2, 2018. We are not sure when her position will be filled.
- Our senior Soil Conservationist in the Rutland Field Office has accepted another position with NRCS Wisconsin. His last day will be in December. Interviews to fill that position were just completed. We are awaiting follow-up from Human Resources.
- Interviews have been conducted to fill the Program Assistant position that was held by Joe. We are awaiting follow-up from Human Resources. In the meantime, the South Zone is being assisted by Joanne in Middlebury.

ACAP Update: (Jennifer Alexander)

Jennifer handed out copies of a Staff Report in Brief for September – October 2018.

Ag Outreach Specialist Update: (Stefano Pinna)

Stefano introduced himself to the Board and handed out copies of a Staff Report in Brief for October.

Other Business:

VACD Annual Meeting – Alan & Mike attended this meeting on October 25, 2018 and represented the RNRCD Board.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.