

**Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2018**

Supervisors Present: Bridget Bowen, Ted Grembowicz, Alan Shelvey and Bob Smith

Also Present: Nanci McGuire, Tina Williams and Philip Rivara

Meeting called to order at: 9:45 a.m.

Minutes from the August 28 Meeting were approved.

Financial Reports for August and September were reviewed, discussed and then approved.

Grant Financials were reviewed, discussed and then approved.

District Manager Report: (Nanci McGuire)

Discussion on:

Regional Ag Water Quality Partners Meetings- Tuesday, October 16, from 1:00 pm.– 4:00 pm. at Green Mountain College.

FY 2019 -NRCC-Rutland Agreement – Nanci reviewed this with the Board and Bridget signed.

VACD Annual Meeting – October 24 and October 25 at Middlebury Inn. October 24 starts at 5:00 pm with a cash bar and dinner at 6:00 pm. I plan to attend day 1 in Rutland which includes a training for DM's and other Conservation Managers. Alan Shelvey plans to attend day 2 in Middlebury.

2018 State of the Lake Report – I attended a public meeting on September 27 at West Rutland Town Office where Matt Vaughan and Colleen Hickey with the LCBP provided a presentation on this report.

Supervisor Elections – Alan Shelvey's term will expire in December. Legal Notice will be published in the Rutland Herald before October 15. Deadline for submitting nominating petition forms is November 12 and elections will be held on November 27, 2018.

District Manager Meeting/Training – I attended this meeting on September 28 in WRJ.

NRCC and VACD Water Quality Programs Manager – This position has been advertised. This person will work closely with Susie who is the Ag Programs Manager.

NRCC Full Board Meeting – This meeting was held on September 11 at the Annex Conference Room in Montpelier. Alan was present and announced that he is stepping down as representative to NRCC.

GRANTS:

NRCC Block Grant (Tactical Basin Planning) – Alan and I attended a Partners Meeting here on September 10.

NRCC Block Grant (VAAFY2018) – A workshop will be held on Thursday, October 18 from 3:30 – 5:30 pm at Evening Song Farm at 680 Shunpike Rd. in Shrewsbury. Topics for discussion will be NM Planning, Winter Greens Production and High Tunnels.

NRCC Block Grant (VAAFY2019) – Agricultural Outreach Specialist Position for Rutland and Bennington Counties was advertised, and interviews were held here on September 21 and September 24. This position was offered to Stefano Pinna and he has accepted the offer. Stefano will begin working on October 15, 2018.

NRCC Block Grant (ANR) – Construction is complete at Rutland Town School.

ERP FY2017 Cold River Berm Removal – Surveying is complete, and Purchase & Sales Agreements have been signed by both landowners. Closings on the easements will take place on or before November 30, 2018.

ERP FY2018 Homer Stone Brook – The District sponsored a public meeting along with VTDEC on September 11 at the Wallingford Town Office where Michael Hildenbrand with DuBois & King described the project to local officials and adjacent landowners. Michael also gathered historical information and identified problem areas on a map with the help of landowners. After the meeting we all toured the site.

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.

Margin Protection Programs (MPP) –

Margins are as follows:

January \$8.11705

February \$6.88349

March \$6.76837

April \$6.61635

May \$6.78093

June \$7.36521

July \$6.71814

August \$7.42661

\$8.00 Coverage Level Payment Rate/cwt

\$0.00

*All Payments are

sequestered 6.6%

\$1.11651

\$1.23163

\$1.38360

\$1.21907

\$0.63479

\$1.28186

\$0.57338

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

2.750% per annum for a **3-year** loan term

2.750% per annum for a **5-year** loan term

2.875% per annum for a **7-year** loan term

2.875% per annum for a **10-year** loan term

3.000% 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 Payments if triggered should be available to pay this week.

Market Facilitation Program (MFP) -The Office has paid on 13 Dairy Contracts in Bennington County totaling \$16,774 and 34 contracts in Rutland County Totaling \$43,177. 4 Hog Applications have been received. More applications will be received when corn and soybeans have been harvested.

Administrative –We have on boarded one FLOT in Newport. We are authorized to advertise 3 more FLOT positions and 2 County Office positions but no announcements have been flown at this time.

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 October 17, 2018 10:30am.

NRCS Update: (Philip Rivara)

District Conservationist (DC) – Marian Jordan, new DC for Rutland NRCS started work on October 1, 2018.

High Tunnels, RCPP and Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) - Currently taking first round sign-ups. Deadline is October 19, 2018.

Emergency Drought Assistance through EQIP - Currently taking sign-ups. Deadline for sign up is October 19, 2018.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.