

**Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2019**

Supervisors Present: Bridget Bowen, Bob Smith, Mike Pedone and Alan Shelvey

Also Present: Nanci McGuire, Tina Williams and Stefano Pinna

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

Minutes from the June 6 Meeting were approved.

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

District Manager Report: (Nanci McGuire)

Discussion on:

LaRosa Focus Group (Friends of the Winooski, Franklin Watershed Committee, PMNRCD (Hilary), Mississquoi River Basin Assoc., Friends of the Mad River, White River partnership, Watersheds United VT). So far, they have held one meeting and I attended part of this via skype.

Bennington NRCD – Shelly is retiring. The District will be interviewing for this position soon and Shelly will stay long enough to train the new person.

GRANTS:

NRCC Block Grant Project Development – I submitted for funding to develop (3) projects.

ERP FY2017 Cold River Berm Removal – At this point the VRC Lawyer and Ruane’s Lawyer are communicating. This could really hold up this project.

ERP FY2018 Moon Brook SWMP – Kerry with Watershed Consulting Associates and I did site visits to (3) properties that have been identified in this DRAFT SWMP.

(P3P) Public-Private Partnerships for 3 Acre Rule – The State has released a list of properties over 3 acres.

Next Round for ERP Funding – I have communicated with Angie Allen and she in turn communicated with Jim Pease regarding Towns in the RNRCD District who might benefit from a SWMP. Jim suggested the Towns of West Rutland and Proctor. We will discuss this again once the RFP is released.

Ag Specialist Update: (Stefano Pinna)

Discussion on:

Reports, Trainings and Meetings:

VACD/NRCD meeting on AGCWIP3, FAP application and NMP work. Presented Power Point on color coded maps.

NMP commission in Williston (create a state TSP certification program)

Nutrient Management Planning and Implementation:

NMP related work (manure loads weight, soil sampling, moisture test reading)

NMP record updates and soil tests updates (4)

Farm visits (3) to address field management questions

Farm visit (1) to assess hemp field, fertigation system and fertilization plan

Other farm visits (4)

Moved drill to 5 farms (+150 acres planted)

Other:

Tile drain sampling. Took over OCNRCD sites

LaRosa stream sampling.

Event on “Raising pigs on pasture”

FSA Update: (Tina Williams)

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) – Service Fee increased to \$325 per crop in the 2018 Farm Bill from \$250 per crop. Buy Up coverage will be available at a premium. National Training the week of August 5th.

Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) – Sign Up period is June 17, 2019 through September 20, 2019 with the first payments were made July 9. January Margin is \$7.71. February Margin is \$7.91. March Margin is \$8.66. April margin is \$8.82. May Margin is \$9.00. To date 9 contracts in Bennington County have been paid totaling \$95,779.69 and 28 contracts in Rutland County totaling \$213,020.03.

Agricultural Risk Coverage & Price Loss Coverage Program (ARC/PLC) – Anticipated roll out is September 2019 with many changes. Stay tuned! National Training will be the week of August 5th.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – General Sign Up slated for December 2019. Continuous and CREP sign up and re-enrollment began June 3rd ends August 23, 2019. 9 contracts expiring 9/30/2019 with no interest in re-enrollment. Soil Rental Rates were lowered again.

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

1.875% per annum for a **3-year** loan term

1.875% per annum for a **5-year** loan term

2.000% per annum for a **7-year** loan term

2.125% per annum for a **10-year** loan term

2.250% per annum for a **12-year** loan term

MARKET FACILITATION PROGRAM (MFP): Secretary Perdue announced May 23, 2019 there will be MFP for 2019 in the amount of \$14.5 billion in direct payments to producers. Producers of alfalfa hay, corn, oats, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat will receive a payment based on a single county rate multiplied by the farm's total planting to those crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019 and therefore will not distort planting decisions. Dairy producers will receive a per hundredweight payment on production history and hog producers will receive a payment based on hog and pig inventory for a later specified time frame. Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. The first tranche will begin in late July/early August as soon as practical after FSA crop reporting is completed by July 15th. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January.

Administrative – Farm Loan Specialist has been posted. Farm Loan Manager in Middlebury was filled by David Girard. Program Technician in White River Junction was selected and will be onboarded mid-august. St. Albans PT position has to be re-posted. Two COT positions will be posted before fiscal year end.

Next County Committee Meeting is Tuesday August 27, 2019 10:30am.

Other Business:

MOU with NRCS – Nanci handed out copies of this to the Board and they will review this and get comments back by July 31.

Local Work Group – **Wednesday, August 28 from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. here at the USDA Service Center.**

RNRCD FY2020 DRAFT Budget – Nanci handed out copies for the Board to review. The Board will review and get questions or comments back to Nanci before the next meeting.

RNRCD FY19 Budget with Actual Figures – Nanci handed out copies of this.

RNRCD FY2020 Annual Work Plan - Nanci handed out copies for the Board to review. The Board will review and get questions or comments back to Nanci before the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.