

**Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2019**

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

Also, Present: Nanci McGuire, Tina Williams and Marian Jordan

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

Minutes from the August 21 Meeting were approved.

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

District Manager Report: (Nanci McGuire)

District Manager Meeting – I attended this meeting on 9/13 in WRJ.

Discussion reg:

Emily Bird with DEC presented information regarding: CWIP (Clean Water Initiative Program) and Funding Policy and transition to Act 76 Grant Programs.

Ben Copans with DEC spoke about 2020 Tactical Basin Planning.

Holden Sparacino with NRCC spoke about Act 76 and how this could affect Districts.

Kerry O'Brien with NRCC spoke about the MOU between Districts, NRCS and others.

Jill Arace – Gave a Legislative update.

VT Envirothon Steering Committee Meeting (Conference Call) – I participated in this meeting on 9/12

Discussion reg:

Site for the 2020 event will be Shelburne Farms

FY2019 budget and FY2020 budget

Current Issue – Ground Water and Drinking Water.

NRCC Meeting – This meeting was held on 9/10 and Paul Wagner represented the South-Central Union.

VT Dairy Water Collaborative Report – I handed out copies.

Cost Effectiveness & Operation & Maintenance Standards of Clean Water RFP – This RFP is for Consultants. Watershed Consulting Associates will be submitting an application.

Zoom Meeting Reg. Act 76 & CWSP's – I participated in this meeting on 9/6

PMNRCD Summer Ag Newsletter – I handed out copies

Otter Creek TBP – I handed out copies of the schedule of public meetings.

Clean Water Advisory Committee Meeting – Alan and I attended this meeting on 9/17 where we presented information regarding the UOCWC Summer Water Quality Monitoring Program.

Science at the Hatchery – October 8 at the Hatchery in N. Chittenden. I need all the help that I can get PLEASE. Buses arrive at 9:30. PLEASE be there by 9:00.

GRANTS:

ERP FY2017 Cold River Berm Removal – I went to Bob and Mary Ruane's on September 27 and dropped off a revised Purchase and Sales Agreement. This is now fully executed, and the next step is for VRC to set up date for closing on the easements.

ERP FY2018 Moon Brook SWMP – I met with Watershed Consulting Associates and the City DPW folks on 9/9 to discuss outreach to landowners and the top 3 priority projects that will go through to 30% design.

LCBP Best Management Practices for Pollution Reduction: Implementation and Planning Grants – I am currently working on this RFP due October 3. This will be to implement 2 projects identified in the Brandon SWMP.

Ag Specialist Update: (Stefano provided a written report)

Reports, Trainings and Meetings:

RNRCD board meeting

Local work group

Meeting with Cheryl Cesario to promote PSWF application

Nutrient Management Planning and Implementation:

Farm visits: 25

Worked on updating 2 NMP.

Hemp consulting at 3 farms.

NMP related work: bale weight and manure weight at 2 farms

Soil sampling in Bennington County with Michelle Smith

Wrote PMNRCD newsletter

Working on 2 PSWF applications

Other:

LaRosa stream sampling

Tile drain sampling at OCNRCD, PMNRCD

FSA Update: (Tina Williams)

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) – Service Fee increased to \$325 per crop, Buy Up coverage is available at a premium. November 20, 2019 is the deadline to purchase 2020 Hay Coverage.

Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) – Sign Up period was extended and now ends Friday, September 27, 2019. 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. June Margin is \$8.63. July Margin \$9.27. 2020 Sign Up begins October 7, 2019 and ends December 13, 2019.

Agricultural Risk Coverage & Price Loss Coverage Program (ARC/PLC) – 2019 Sign Up began September 3, 2019 and runs through March 2020. 2020 Sign Up begins October 1, 2019 and runs through March 2020. The opportunity to prove yields will be available for 2020 crop year, more information to come. Election into Arc Co or PLC will be an annual election. 2018 payments, if triggered, will be paid early October 2019.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – General Sign Up slated for December 2019. No authority to implement CRP or CREP until the new regulations are published. Soil Rental Rates were lowered again.

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

1.625% per annum for a **3-year** loan term

1.625% per annum for a **5-year** loan term

1.750% per annum for a **7-year** loan term

1.875% per annum for a **10-year** loan term

1.875% 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. Bennington County is \$15 per acre and Rutland County is \$17 per acre. Dairy producers will receive \$.20 per hundredweight payment on production history and hog producers will receive \$11 per hog. 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 began the end of August, if conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January. Sign Up began July 29 and runs through December 6, 2019. 6 potential producers left to signup.

Administrative – Jill Thomas received the Farm Loan Specialist position. Program Technician in White River Junction Courtney LeCuyer started Monday August 9, 2019. St. Albans PT Cassie Tiffany starts 9/29/2019. Two COT positions were posted to USAJOBS closed 9/19, interviews soon. 2 FLOT's for Middlebury office will be next to be hired.

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

NRCS Update: (Marian Jordan)

Obligated AMA, EQIP and CSP Applications – Currently working on completing these applications.

Staffing – Alexis Clune has left the Rutland office for a promotion in Maine.

Rico's position has been closed but I have not heard anything from HR.

Civil Engineering Tech – This position will be posted but not sure when.

Brattleboro Soil Con – Someone has been hired for this position. I have not heard from HR what the start date is for this person.

Programs Sign Up for FY2020 – No deadline for signing up has been set.

Staff will be doing field visits in the next month.

Working on closing out FY19 and getting ready for the new FY.

Other Business:

MOU Between NRCS, Districts and Others – Nanci handed out copies of the second draft of this MOU that includes comments from all Districts.

Local Work Group – Marian forward the information from our Local Work Group Meeting on to the state office.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.