

Franklin County NRCD Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2019

In attendance: Daton Fleury (Chair), Doug Lantagne (Supervisor), Jeannie Bartlett (Manager), Richard Noel (Treasurer), Eileen Trudell (Supervisor), Eliza Letourneau (ECO AmeriCorps member), Steve Fleury (Guest)

50 S. Main St., St. Albans, VT 05478

minutes recorded by Jeannie Bartlett

Minutes:

9:50 Meeting called to order. Eliza Letourneau introduced herself, her background of study at Duke University.

9:54 Jeannie provided update on District activities. Soil sampling, farmer sign-ups for the NMP class, State House to Farm House event. Richard provided update on two Choiniere pasture walks that happened in the last month and some of the innovative practices they are using. Jeannie shared about her experience (on personal time) at the Food Solutions New England group. Discussion of weather and how the wet spring nationwide might help reduce milk production and stabilize price in the short term. Discussion of Sen. Sanders events next week seeking input on agricultural components of the Green New Deal and on dairy supply management.

10:09 Review of minutes. Richard makes a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Doug seconds. Approved.

10:09 Discussion of Grand Isle NRCD. Little progress in the conversation. Board thinks it would be to Grand Isle's advantage to merge with the Franklin NRCD. Discussion of the different strengths of Grand Isle county's agriculture. Discussion of remaining dairies in Grand Isle. Discussion of emerald ash borer and butternut canker. Several supervisors are aware of trees that still drop butternuts in Franklin and Grand Isle counties.

10:25 Review of financial statements. Treasurer expressed confusion about how to interpret the balance sheet. Supervisors questioned \$19,431.79 payroll tax liability – for what time period is that tax liability? Requested manager to follow up with accountant. Financials reviewed to board's satisfaction.

10:40 Discussion of January staffing needs. Manager shared that she applied to and was accepted to teach a four-week course for Middlebury College's January-term, and she sought to hear any concerns or advice from the Board. She would plan to continue to work at the District at reduced (<20) hours per week for the month of January. Board noted that January is a slow time for the District and is not concerned about her reducing hours.

10:41 Discussion of possible private partnership to fund tree planting, upcoming discussion with executive. Board advised to listen to him. Board advised that we might help support the other watershed groups that do tree plantings every spring – Brian Jerose, MRBA, Jon Little.

10:48 Daton submitted his resignation, effective immediately. Board and staff expressed appreciation and regret. Asked Steve Fleury if he would be interested in serving. Steve said he and Betsy are happy enough with their involvement in dairy and maple promotion. Jeannie reviewed which supervisor's term will be up this fall, and it would have been Daton's anyway.

11:11 Next board meeting set for December 17, 9:30.

11:12 Meeting adjourned.

Follow up:

- DM will seek clarification on Payroll Liabilities from the accountant.
- Future financial reports from the Board will show greater clarity on A/R and liabilities, and will highlight total equity.
- Jeannie will write an article about Daton for the paper
- Everyone will look for someone to recruit to the Board
- We will need to elect a new Board Chair in January