

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

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

Also, Present: Nanci McGuire and Stefano Pinna

Meeting called to order at: 9:30 a.m.

Minutes from the September 25 Meeting were approved.

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

District Manager Report: (Nanci McGuire)

Discussion on:

Stafford Technical Center Forestry & Natural Resources Class Advisory Committee Meeting – I attended this meeting on September 30.

Zoom Meeting – I participated in this meeting on October 4 regarding Tactical Basin Planning Work Plans and Budgets for FY2020.

Otter Creek Tactical Basin Planning Public Meeting – Bridget and I attended this meeting in Brandon on October 22 where Angie presented information on the Basin 3 Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan. This was the last of the public meetings, but the public commenting period is open until November 8, 2019.

NRCC Block Grant TBP 2020 – I worked with Angie to come up with the work plan and budget for 2020 Tactical Basin Planning and this has been uploaded to the google drive.

Supervisor Elections – Deadline for submitting nominating petition forms is November 12, 2019 and elections will be held November 26, 2019.

Science at the Hatchery – This event was held on October 8. Rutland Town, Mt. Holy, Proctor and Christ the King attended. Thank you, Alan and Bridget, for being there to help.

School Stormwater Permit Early Adoption through the Green Schools Program – DEC has mailed a Request for Information to schools in the Lake Champlain Basin who have over 3 acres of impervious surface. The goal is for the State to find out what schools are interested in participating in an early adoption program and to help inform funding and project delivery details.

Spring 2020 Tree Sale – I have ordered all trees, berries, etc. for this sale.

GRANTS:

ERP FY2017 Cold River Berm Removal – After many days of debate between the VRC Lawyer and Ruane's Lawyer it looks like the Ruane's have agreed to close on the easement. I have an email into Steve Libby with VRC to see if he has set a date to close.

ERP FY2018 Moon Brook SWMP – I met with Kerrie with Watershed Consulting Associates and Jenn with VAC on September 30 at VT Achievement Center to discuss proposed stormwater practices identified in the draft Moon Brook SWMP. Jenn was very interested in participating but must bring this to the full board before they can commit to going ahead with a 30% conceptual design.

There was also a meeting on October 3 at Ocean State Job Lot with Kerrie with Watershed Consulting Associates, Nicole Kesselring with Enman Kesselring Consulting Engineers, John Barbato with Ocean State Job Lot, and Jeff Wennberg and Jim Rotondo with the City DPW to discuss the existing stormwater infrastructure and what needs to be done onsite to meet the requirements of the 3-acre permit.

LCBP Best Management Practices for Pollution Reduction: Implementation and Planning Grants – I submitted a proposal for this funding to implement two projects identified in the Brandon SWMP.

#1. Pearl Street project is a series of bio-swailes along the entire length of Pearl Street.

#2. Café Provence project is for a bioretention practice along the edge of the parking lot and removing a small amount of parking as currently runoff flows directly to the Neshobe River.

Ag Specialist Update: (Stefano Pinna)

Reports, Trainings and Meetings:

Science at the Hatchery – Macros station.

Otter creek tactical basin plan public meeting – Brandon (10/22).

Nutrient Management Planning and Implementation:

Farmers FAP application. Cover crops on the ground before 10/15 if seeded – 10/1 if broadcasted. Corn harvest is at the end.

Hemp harvest is going on. Different farm scale lead to opposite harvest techniques.

CEAP grant and VHCB grant. Funding eligible for equipment and for farmstead projects. Applications from 4/5 farmers. No application for RCPP class.

Meeting with Stone Environmental to try new software to calculate P reductions from conservation practices.

Soil sampling in corn fields before winter.

Other:

Tile drain sampling at OCNRCD, PMNRCD. Had 2 events with over 1 inch of rain in 24hrs.

FSA Update: (Tina provided a written report)

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) – October Interest rates are as follows:

1.500% per annum for a **3-year** loan term

1.500% per annum for a **5-year** loan term

1.625% per annum for a **7-year** loan term

1.625% per annum for a **10-year** loan term

1.750% per annum for a **12-year** loan term

Market Facilitation Program (MFP): Sign up began July 29, 2019 and ends December 6, 2019 the first round of payments began August 19, 2019. Rates are \$0.20 per cwt on their production history for dairy (milk), \$11 per head for hogs, \$15 per acre for non-specialty crops (corn, sorghum, rye, oats and soybeans) in Bennington County and \$17 per acre in Rutland County. Dairy producers had to have been in business on June 1, 2019 to be eligible. For crops, a producers total payment eligible acres cannot exceed total 2018 plantings. The first payment will be 50% of their milk production and \$15 per acre for non-specialty crops. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January. To date the office has paid out \$37,594.97 on 12 contracts in Bennington County and \$128,258.51 on 52 contracts in Rutland County.

Administrative –Two COT positions have tentative offers and are awaiting clearance. 2 FLOT's for Middlebury office will be next to be hired.

Next County Committee Meeting is Wednesday December 4, 2019 10:30am.

THIS WILL BE OUR HOLIDAY POTLUCK AT NOON AND YOU ARE ALL INVITED!

Other Business:

Alan Shelvey spoke about the potential for a project in Weybridge for legacy phosphorus in sediment. The Board supports Alan's idea so Alan will move forward and keep the Board informed.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.