

Franklin County NRCD Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2020

In attendance: Philip Parent (Vice Chair), Eliza Letourneau (ECO AmeriCorps Cons. Tech.), Jeannie Bartlett (District Manager), Doug Lantagne (Treasurer), Richard Noel (Chair), Molly Magnan (Board Member)

Conducted via teleconference.

Minutes recorded by Jeannie Bartlett & Eliza Letourneau

Minutes:

3:37 Meeting called to order.

3:39 Doug makes a motion to approve the minutes from 3/26/20 as printed, Phil seconds. Motion carried.

3:41 Jeannie gave updates regarding the tree sale. We served 135 customers. Revenue is significantly down from previous years and has not been this low since 2017. Jeannie believes a significant portion of that is due to Drinkwaters Nursery, the supplier of balled and burlapped trees, going out of business. In previous years we bought trees from Drinkwaters at very low prices and were able to make a significant amount of money off of them; Jeannie attributes \$10,000 in lost revenue to this. At present, Jeannie has been unable to find a replacement source for these trees, Richard suggested taking time to research a replacement for future years. This year American Meetings Inc. sponsored us with \$1,000 to give away 200 free trees to our customers. We gave away black walnut, black cherry, and red maple, and people were very happy to receive free trees. We also sent out a survivorship survey with all customers to get information on if trees survived the first season. We spread out pick up over a few days to allow for social distancing. Jeannie recommends extending pick up over two days next year and scheduling people to one day or the other.

3:54 Discussion of farms that have just gone out of business. There is now something similar to a quota system in milk production, so when a farm goes out of business another farm buys their "base," or their right to produce additional milk. At the same time, people are restricted from how much butter they can buy at the grocery store.

3:59 Doug asks about the mushroom sale P&L. Jeannie clarified that the workshop registrations of \$200 should also be included as revenue, so the program comes out \$60 positive.

4:02 Discussion of financials. We continue to have negative net income due to not yet receiving money from grants for work that has already been done. Most of the negative balance will be recovered once we have invoiced and received payment. We will be reporting and invoicing soon for tree plantings and AG CWIP 2. Doug makes a motion to approve the financial report as printed, Phil seconds, motion carried.

4:07 Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) issued an RFP for non-profit organizations to apply for funding for this summer for losses due to COVID-19. Jeannie applied for funds for equipment and software and received \$3,000 for water sampling poles, a camera, and a subscription to QuickBooks Online to improve efficiency with accounting and allow both our accountant and Jeannie access. Richard motions to approve entering into this grant agreement, Doug seconds, motion carried. Richard motions to allow funds to be spent as specified in the grant proposal, Phil seconds, motion carried.

4:13 District updates. We were very active in tree plantings this spring, planting 7 acres this spring through four projects. Projects were supported through grant funding. Jeannie discussed that tree plantings will need stewardship to be successful, so we plan to spend time and apply for funds to steward these projects in the future.

4:19 Next meeting scheduled for June 11th at 3pm. Molly emailed to say she has been in attendance but unable to speak.

4:23 Meeting adjourned.

Follow up:

- Jeannie will continue to look for replacement vendors for balled & burlapped trees.
- Jeannie will prepare a FY21 budget for June meeting.