

**Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District  
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes  
February 12, 2020**

**Supervisors Present:** Bridget Bowen, Ted Grembowicz and Alan Shelvey

**Also, Present:** Nanci McGuire, Stefano Pinna and Marian Jordan

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

**Minutes from the January 9 Meeting** were approved.

**Financial Report for January** was reviewed, discussed and then approved.

**Grant Financials for Moon Brook SWMP** was reviewed, discussed and approved.

**District Manager Report:** (Nanci McGuire)

**Discussion on:**

**RFP for Clean Water Service Providers** - The release date for this RFP is now February 3, 2020 and deadline for proposals is May 8, 2020. The RFP is not for all 15 basins, it is now for “one or more” of the seven planning basins.

**Clean Water Service Provider Meeting** – This meeting was held on Jan. 29 at the Brandon Town Hall. This meeting was with the Addison and Rutland Regional Planning Commissions and any others in the Otter Creek Basin who were interested in attending. There is still a lot of hesitation from groups to be CWSP’s. Addison County RPC MIGHT have some interest in being the CWSP for the Otter Creek Basin. If they do apply for this, it will be for administrative role and they will sub everything else out. I did not attend this meeting as I was working on the RFP for the Young’s Brook Dam Removal.

**Summer Water Quality Monitoring Program** – The 2020 – 2021 LaRosa Analytical Service Grant will now be competitive and managed by a Grants Management Specialist like other DEC grant programs. They are suggesting that groups collaborate and submit a single proposal under an umbrella partnership proposal. I am not sure what all of this means but I plan to talk to Angie Allen about this.

**VT Envirothon Steering Committee Meeting** – I participated in this conference call on Feb. 3. So far there are only 10 teams signed up. There is hope that other teams will sign up. Event date is May 19 and will be held at Shelburne Farms.

**GRANTS:**

**ERP FY2017 Cold River Berm Removal** –The District now has the fully executed amended agreements. Steve Libby with the VT River Conservancy (VRC) has Mary Ruane’s signature on the easement. The next step is to have ANR Secretary sign this easement. After this is signed and notarized Steve will then record the fully executed easement along with the other required recording documents. VRC will then continue the easement process with the other landowner, Scott Duncan.

**Best Management Practices for Pollution Reduction: Implementation and Planning Grants** – I have created the RFP to go to engineering consultants for final design of the (2) stormwater projects in Brandon. Café Provence and Pearl Street. This will be emailed to consultants tomorrow (February 13) and the deadline for them to submit proposals is March 16.

**CWIP/ERP FY 2020 Application** – On behalf of the RNRCD and with the help of Angie Allen and others, I applied for funding for dam removal on the Youngs Brook in West Rutland. The application deadline was February 3. We are supposed to hear back by March 9 as to whether this project will be funded.

**Public-Private Partnerships (P3)** – I attended a meeting at the Pittsford Town Office on Feb. 3 with Watershed Consulting Associates, John Haverstock (Pittsford Town Manager), Barbara Pulling (RRPC), Stephanie Jerome and Butch Shaw (District 6 State Representatives). This meeting was to review the 3-acre permit and discuss properties in the Town of Pittsford that are on the 3-acre parcel list.

After reviewing and discussing the properties John Haverstock agreed to send Watershed Consulting contact information for the Proctor-Pittsford Country Club so that Watershed Consulting can reach out to them to discuss the 3-acre rule.

**Ag Specialist Report for January & February:** (Stefano Pinna)

**Discussion on:**

**Trainings and Meetings attended/organized.**

**Nutrient Management Planning and Implementation -**

Soil sampling at 3 farms

Rutland Class with two farms

Updated 3 NMPs

Updated other plans partially

**Other**

Consolidated 2 VHCB applications and forwarded to VAAFM PSWF fencing application.

Talked with Andres, Watershed Consulting regarding a possible collaboration on: “*Cost Effectiveness and Operation & Maintenance Standards of Clean Water Projects in Vermont*”.

Wrote article on hemp on insects and disease control.

Meeting with NRCS and BCCD for farmer in Bennington County.

Visit with VAAFM, NRCS, BCCD, F&W to Bennington County for project identification (fencing, manure handling, leachate handling, barn construction).

Call with 1 landowner in Bennington County to plant 13 acres of buffers/wetland area.

Tile drain sampling.

**NRCS Report:** (Marian Jordan)

The South Zone is currently working with customers as we prepare for the FY2020 funding period. Staff are conducting interviews and field visits.

We currently have approximately 100 applications and continue to accept applications throughout the year.

A notice was issued statewide on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> informing potential applicants of a March 5<sup>th</sup> deadline for Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) applications. The State Conservationist will begin accepting Early Start Waiver requests for beginning CAPs in the interim while applications are being evaluated.

We are currently accepting applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program. NRCS VT was awarded \$770,000 to fund approved applications this year.

The South Zone welcomes 3 new employees:

Doug Ottke—Soil Conservation Technician

Johan Desrochers—Soil Conservationist

Olivia Carlson—Soil Conservationist

They start at the Rutland Field Office on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Soil Conservationist, Olivia Schrantz will transfer to the Middlebury Field Office on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Other Business:**

**Operating Procedures for RNRCD** – Nanci handed out copies of this document approved in 2006 with updates. This was reviewed and discussed by the Board and suggestions were made for changes. Nanci will make these changes and present to the Board at the next meeting.

**Financial Policies and Procedures for RNRCD** – Nanci drafted this document and handed out copies to the Board to review. After review and discussion, the Board suggested changes. Nanci will make these changes and present to the Board at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.**