

**Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District  
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes  
Clarendon Community Center  
March 30, 2021**

**Supervisors Present:** Bridget Bowen, Mike Pedone, Alan Shelvey and Sean Barrows

**Also Present:** Nanci McGuire

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

**Minutes from the January 27 Meeting** were approved.

**Financial Reports for January and February** were reviewed, discussed, and then approved.

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

**Discussion on:**

**District Manager Meetings** – I participated in zoom meetings on February 2 and March 16. The next DM Meeting will be on April 20.

**Act 76** – The Rule is still in draft form and I have not yet seen the Guidance Document for Clean Water Service Providers which will include Basin Water Quality Councils. Addison RPC is the Clean Water Service Provider for Basin 3 (Otter Creek).

**Spring Tree Sale 2021** – The District has received over 90 orders.

Pick up is Saturday, May 8, from 10:00 – 12:30 at the Rutland Town Highway Garage. I need as many of you as I can get to be there PLEASE.

I could also use any help that I could get the week of May 3.

**Clean Water Lecture Series** – I participated in two meetings via zoom.

February 2, **PES (Payment for Ecosystem Services)** - Under Act 83 of 2019 Section 3 the Legislature charged the Secretary of Ag to convene a working group. The Working Group was very active in 2019 and due to the Pandemic, there was very little activity in 2020.

This program is designed to give VT Farmers financial incentives to implement ag practices that improve soil health, enhance crop resilience and reduce ag runoff i.e., cover crops, buffers, manure incorporation/injection, reduced tillage crop rotation.

I participated in a meeting lead by staff from UVM Extension and others regarding PES via zoom on March 24 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Jennifer Alexander reached out to farmers in our area to participate in this meeting. Farmers from the Bennington and Poultney Mettowee NRCDC's also participated.

March 18, **(Tactical Basin Planning)** – This meeting was led by Ethan Swift, Program Manager and Ben Copans, Supervising Planner. Ethan spoke about the History of Basin Planning and where the State is currently in the Basin Planning Process. Ben spoke about the Tactical Basin Planning Process and the future of Basin Planning. Act 76 is still in draft form but will provide long term funding to Clean Water Service Providers to include Basin Water Quality Councils with the goal to implement projects to meet TMDL target.

**Agricultural Specialist** – Amelia Bruss has started work and will cover both Rutland and Bennington Counties.

**Trout Sale** – Pick up is Saturday, May 22 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

**GRANTS:**

**ERP FY2017 Cold River Berm Removal** –

Parker Water Wells collected all of the water quality samples and has sent these to the lab for analysis. Once the results come back from the lab Parkers will get these to Enman-Kesselring Engineering so that Enman can complete the permitting and provide a FINAL design for the well.

A bid has been drafted to go out to Construction contractors and I am hopeful to get this out to contractors in April. Construction has to be completed by October.

**LCBP Best Management Practices for Pollution Reduction: Implementation and Planning Grants** (Town of Brandon) – I met with Andres and David Atherton, Brandon Town Manager on March 29 via zoom to review the FINAL

designs for Café Provence and Pearl Street. The three of us also reviewed and finalized the bid that Andres and I had drafted to go out to contractors for construction. Once the bids have been received, they will be ranked by the Brandon Town Manager, myself and Alan Shelvey. Once we have selected a construction contractor, I will create an agreement between the contractor and the District. The plan is to have both projects constructed by the end of the Summer 2021. **Tactical Basin Planning** – I signed an agreement between NRCC and RNRCD for Tactical Basin Planning on March 18. This will be for work completed October 2020 through the end of June 2021. The total amount of funding is \$5,400.00 and is for:

Attending quarterly meetings with Angie Allen the RRPC and others, attending regional meetings in the ag sector or meetings regarding Clean Water Service Providers and Guidance, to set up meetings with Towns to identify projects in Stormwater Master Plans or River Corridor Plans for design and implementation, to create blog posts/press releases, to attend any meetings/trainings pertaining to Basin Water Quality Council, and to Draft FY 2021-FY 2022 Tactical Basin Planning Workplan with partners.

**Southern Windsor County RPC Block Grant (Wallingford Elementary School) –**

Andres with Watershed Consulting has reached out to Gary Marcy, Director of Operations for Wallingford Elementary school to coordinate a time to dig soil test pits.

**ERP FY2020 Youngs Brook Dam Removal** –Milone and MacBroom (now SLR International Corp.) provided an interim report to the District. There is a need for additional funding to do borings to determine depth to bedrock before the design can be finalized so I have requested these additional funds (\$5,000) to be added to our existing agreement and have also requested an extension until the end of September 2021. This request had to go through DEC Project Manager Todd Menees. Todd was told by the Business office that this could take some time.

From the Interim Report:

*Probing through the top or sides of the dam was not possible due to the stones in the compacted fill on the earthen embankment. This complication leaves an important question unanswered – does bedrock exist in or under the dam? This information is required to select the proper amount of sediment removal. Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) will not penetrate through the tall dam and thus we anticipate that a series of geotechnical borings is needed to refine the design. The rough estimate for the borings is \$5,000. This additional expense is well-justified given that this information will have important ramifications for the project cost, channel stability, and downstream water quality.*

**LCBP Best Management Practices for Pollution Reduction: Implementation and Planning Grants** (City of Rutland, Phosphorus Control Plan) – LCBP approved the workplan that I submitted. I created a bid and sent this to (3) Engineering firms. Bids are due back to me on April 9. These bids will be ranked by a representative(s) from the City of Rutland DPW, myself and Angie Allen. If Alan Shelvey is interested in ranking these bids, I would appreciate it. The amount that the District will be awarded is \$49,943.

**NRCC Project Development Block Grant** – I submitted a proposal to NRCC on February 19, for funding to work with DEC Staff to identify permitting needs and an engineering firm to further develop plans, including costs to remove the berm located in the lower Cold River drainage near the confluence with the Otter Creek located on the Ruane property. The total amount requested is \$1,125. I am waiting to hear from Council.

**Other Business:**

Reminder to PLEASE mark your calendars for Tree Sale pick up Saturday, May 8 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Rutland Town Highway Garage.

I could use help May 3,4, 5 and 6 to set up, inventory, tag trees and pull orders.

**Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 9:30 at the Clarendon Grange Hall**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.**