

Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District (RNRCD)
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
USDA Service Center, Rutland
January 11, 2023

Supervisors Present: Alan Shelvey, Mike Pedone, Sean Barrows and Lee Turner

Also, Present: Nanci McGuire, Rachael Burt (Ag Specialist), Tina Williams (FSA)

Meeting called to order at 9:40 a.m.

Minutes from the November 30 Meeting were approved.

Ag Specialist Update: (Rachael Burt)

- Attended Teff & Sudan grass workshop at a farm in Poultney
- RCPP NMP class work
 - Soil sampling
 - LTP work for Michelle
 - Slopes,
 - Buffers
 - Etc.
 - Preparing for NMP class to start
- Attended UVM Extension Ag staff meeting
- Attended RUSLE2 training in Middlebury
- AgCWIP workplan
- Retrieved the donated greenhouse from the Nature Conservancy
- Attending first NMP class @ UVM Extension in Rutland today
- Will be attending VACD Winter Gathering in Montpelier 1/12
- Planning beef nutrition & grazing management workshop for 2/7
 - Castleton Firehouse-need to confirm
 - Postcard/advertisement for workshop
 - Discussion w/Cheryl Cesario
- Planning Grazing Plan and Grazing Management 3-session course w/Cheryl Cesario for Rutland County
 - 2/28, 3/3, 3/14
 - Poultney Office for location
 - Create flyer for the class
 - Will confirm time after we hear back from farmers that want to sign up for class
- CPS Surveys*
- Newsletter is almost completed to send out for January 2023

Financial Reports for November & December were reviewed and discussed.

Grant Financials for ERP FY2017 Cold River Berm Removal, ERP FY2018 Cold River Berm Removal and LCBP BMP for Pollution Reduction: Implementation and Planning Grants (Rutland City PCP) were reviewed and discussed.

A motion was made by Sean and seconded by Lee to approve November & December financial reports and grant financial reports. This was then voted on and the motion passed.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Update: (Tina Williams)

Programs:

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) – Working on implementing this program for landowners who sustained damage to their maple sugar bush from winter storm Elliot.

Emergency Relief Program (ERP) – Sign up for this new program is January 23 – June 2.

Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) – Sign up for this new program is January 23 - June

Staffing:

There is an opening in the Rutland office for a Program Assistant.

Tina announced that her last day as County Executive Director (CED) in the Rutland office is January 27.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Update: (Phylicxia provided a written report)

NRCS is continuing to process and prioritize program applications in accordance to when they are received and our deadline dates, including providing assistance for DEC-RCPP 2132 (application deadline, tomorrow, Jan. 13th)
Processing final CSP payments for those producers who requested their payment in the 2023 calendar year.

The Rutland Field Office Program Assistant, Katherine Griffing, started Monday, December 5th and is still in training. The Brattleboro Field Office now has 2 new employees that have been onboarded: Emma Kuester – Soil Conservationist and Kayla Brookins – VACD Program Assistant (started 1/9/23).

We will need to schedule a time within the next couple of months (maybe briefly at a board meeting) to review and discuss the Annual Civil Right and EO Discussion. I am still awaiting the FY23 updated version and will provide it once received.

District Manager Report: (Nanci McGuire)

District Manager Meetings - I participated in meetings on December 12 and January 9.

Otter Creek Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) Meeting - I participated in this meeting on December 15

Topics for discussion:

Request For Proposal (RFP) for Clean Water Projects in the Otter Creek, Lewis Creek and Little Otter Creek Basins. This RFP has been released by the Otter Creek Clean Water Service Provider with a due date of February 8. The Addison County RPC has approximately \$1,000,000 available to fund eligible projects this year.

Zach (ACRPC Staff) Gave an Overview of Phosphorus Calculator Tool - The calculator is the tool that will be used to determine Phosphorus reduction values. Zach's presentation gave an overview of the tool so that BWQC members have an understanding of how the tool works.

Next BWQC Meeting - January 25.

Portable Skidder Bridge Meeting - I participated in this meeting on January 5.

Dave Wilcox, Watershed Forester with the VT Dept. of Forest, Parks & Recreation invited District Managers to this meeting to discuss the portable skidder bridge program and to find out which Districts currently have a portable skidder bridge program and which Districts might be interested in the program if they do not currently have a bridge to rent.

Dave provided a PowerPoint presentation for those who are not familiar with the program.

Dave announced that VT Dept. Of Forest, Parks and Recreation have funding to build new bridges so he has put an RFP out to sawmills to build as many bridges as they can with the funding that they have.

Dave is interested in knowing which Districts are interested in one or more of these bridges. Bridges will be available to Districts by June 2023.

Monthly WQ Meeting – I participated in this meeting on December 16 with Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) Staff and PMNRCD, Hilary. Each of us reported on projects that we are currently working on.

Advisory Committee Meeting Stafford Technical Center Natural Resources & Forestry Class – I participated in this meeting on January 10 where we got to say goodbye to Mark Raishart and wish him the best in his new position with the VT Housing & Conservation Board and to meet the new teacher Mike Stannard who will be starting on January 18.

Spring Tree Sale 2023 – I am working on getting the order form together and plan to email and mail to customers SOON.

GRANTS:

Tactical Basin Planning

FY23 Tactical Basin Planning Agreement

Quarterly Progress Report - I prepared the 2nd Qtr. (October - December 2022) progress report and have emailed this to Angie Allen for her to review and approve. The deadline to submit this report to NRCC is January 16.

NRCC Design & Implementation Block Grant 2021 (Stormwater Facility on West Seminary St., Brandon)

Watershed Consulting Associates has prepared 60% design plans/specifications and has submitted this to the Town Manager for approval. The deadline to complete this project is April 15, 2023.

FY22 LCBP Clean Water and Healthy Ecosystems Grant (Town of Proctor SWMP)

LCBP approved the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), and a kick-off meeting has been scheduled with the Town of Proctor on January 17 at 6:00 p.m.

FY23 LCBP Request for Proposals for Clean and Healthy Ecosystems Projects – The District received a letter on

December 20 from the LCBP informing us that the proposal that we submitted to hire an engineering consultant to develop a SWMP for the Clarendon River in the Town of West Rutland was not selected for funding.

It has been suggested that the District submit a Request For Proposal (RFP) for Clean Water Projects in the Otter Creek, Lewis Creek and Little Otter Creek Basins. The deadline to submit this application is February 8.

Other Business:

Supervisor Elections – A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Lee to re-appoint Sean Barrows as Board Supervisor until December 2027. This was then voted on and the motion passed.

NACD Dues – A motion was made by Sean and seconded by Lee to pay \$400 for FY2023 dues. This was then voted on and the motion passed.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 9:30 at the USDA Service Center

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.