

Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District (RNRC D)
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
USDA Service Center, Rutland
May 9, 2023

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

Also, Present: Nanci McGuire and Phyllicxia Moore

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

Minutes from the March 8, Meeting - A motion was made by Sean and seconded by Lee to approve minutes. This was then voted on and the motion passed.

Financial Reports – March & April reports were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Lee to approve the financial reports. This was then voted on and the motion passed.

Grant Financials – Lake Champlain Basin Program, Clean Water (Proctor SWMP) report was reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Sean and seconded by Lee to approve the grant financials. This was then voted on and the motion passed.

District Manager Report: (Nanci McGuire)

District Manager Meetings - I participated in meetings on March 13, April 3, and April 17

Other Meetings:

Local Work Group Meeting– I participated in this meeting on April 6, via zoom. The meeting began with introductions and then Phyllicxia provided a PowerPoint presentation on Locally Led Conservation.

The goal of the Local Work Group is to identify local resource concerns and then prioritize these concerns to help landowners/farmers qualify for NRCS programs.

Rachael reviewed the 2023 Locally Led Conservation Survey and encouraged all participants to fill this out and return to her if they have not already done so by April 11.

Follow up from Local Workgroup Meeting – I participated in this meeting on April 11, via zoom with Hilary, Rachael, Phyllicxia and Jennifer Alexander. Rachel provided a presentation on the Locally Led Conservation Survey results.

The top 3 Resource Concerns were:

- Soil Erosion on Pastureland
- Water Quality Degradation on Pastureland
- Soil Quality Degradation Pastureland and Crops (veggies, corn, etc.)

Locally Led Funding Pool Application - Phyllicxia will draft a proposal for a Locally Led Fund Pool for Rutland and Bennington County landowners based on the top Land Uses and Resource Concerns identified by the Local Work Group. The goal is to have a final draft of the proposal before the end of May as the deadline to submit this is June 2.

Spring Tree Sale 2023 – We received 96 orders this year. Pick up was on Saturday, April 29.

Spring Trout Sale 2023 – Pick up will be on Saturday, May 20, from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.

GRANTS:

Tactical Basin Planning (TBP)–

FY24 TBP workplan - I submitted a draft of our workplan for FY24 to Angie Allen on March 20, for review and approval.

FY23 TBP Quarterly Progress Report (January – March 2023) – I submitted this report to Angie Allen on March 31, for review and approval.

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

Andres Torizzo with Watershed Consulting Associates met with the Town of Brandon Select Board on April 17, to review the revised 60% plans/specifications. The Select Board approved the plan and Watershed Consulting is currently working on the 100% plan/specifications.

Otter Creek Basin Clean Water Service Provider, Clean Water Projects

(Stormwater Master Plan for Clarendon River Watershed in the Town of West Rutland)

The district received a fully executed agreement on May 2. I emailed a request for bids (RFB) to engineering consultants on May 2, and the deadline to submit bids is by 4:00 p.m. on June 1.

Bids will be reviewed and ranked, and a consultant will be selected by June 15. The deadline to have this plan completed is June 30, 2025

Wallingford Elementary School Stormwater BMP Project Implementation – I received an email on May 2, from the Wallingford Town Administrator with an Operation & Maintenance Plan signed by the School District and the Town Select Board Chair.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Update: (Phylicxia Moore)

Phylicxia reported that:

NRCS staff are currently working through FY23 program application obligations for EQIP/AMA/CSP.

CSP IRA application deadline was April 21st. Applications submitted for CSP IRA will be assessed based on the present Resource Concerns and applicable Climate Smart Mitigation Activities found  [here](#). (Physical copy was also provided to the board.)

Rutland, Bennington, and Poultney-Mettowee held their Local Work Group meeting on April 6 and agreed to present a Local Fund Pool proposal based on the top Land Uses and Resource Concerns below:

Land Uses:

Forestland

Cropland

Resource Concerns:

Wind and Water Erosion

Field Sediment/Nutrient and Pathogen Loss

Soil Quality Limitations

Aquatic Habitat

Degraded Plant Condition

The Rutland USDA Service Center will be undergoing renovations expected to begin in the late summer/early fall.

As dates are firmed, more details will be provided.

Phylicxia will be taking maternity leave starting June 12th, expecting to return in August. Olivia will be your office POC during that time.

Other Business:

VT Association of Conservation Districts (VACD) Rep – Nanci shared email correspondence that she had with Linda Corse and Vicky Drew regarding the need for Representatives for the VACD Full Board. This was discussed and it was decided that if Supervisors have questions, they will reach out directly to Linda or Vicky via email.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 9:30 at the USDA Service Center

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.