

Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District (RNRCD)
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
USDA Service Center, Rutland
July 30, 2024

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

Also, Present: Nanci McGuire, Phyllicia Moore, NRCS, District Conservationist, and Whitney Burgess, Ag Outreach Specialist

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

Review/Approval of Minutes from the June 25, Meeting - A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Lee to approve the minutes. This was voted on and the motion passed.

Financial Report – The report for June was reviewed and discussed.

A motion was made by Alan and seconded by Sean to approve the financial report. This was voted on and the motion passed.

FY25 VACD Dues – A motion was made by Lee and seconded by Sean to pay \$2,000 for FY25 Dues. This was then voted on and the motion passed.

District Manager Report: (Nanci McGuire)

District Manager Meeting - I participated in this meeting on Monday, July 1.

Topics for discussion:

- Legislative Debrief from Last Session- (Meg, Action Circles)
- FY 26 Appropriations Request Budgeting Overview and Working Session (Jill Arace)

Next Meeting is Monday, August 12.

OTHER:

Otter Creek Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) Meeting - I participated in this meeting on July 24, where we reviewed (2) applications for Otter Creek (CWSP) Clean Water Projects Funds.

#1) Lewis Creek Association (LCA) - Common Ground Center - The Lewis Creek Association requested \$9,600 for final design of an erosion control project at the Common Ground Center in Starksboro. The Center is located on a private section of Tatro Road adjacent to the Lewis Creek.

The project would involve re-grading the roads, removing berms, and stone-lining eroding ditches.

#2) Addison County River Watch Collaborative (ACRWC) ACRWC requested \$9,900 to meet with landowners in four sub-watersheds in Addison County to identify potential riparian planting projects. They have already identified three landowners where projects are possible, and part of the funds would be used to further develop these projects.

After review and discussion both projects were approved to receive funding.

Mike Winslow updated the BWQC on the status of Rounds 1 – 3 Clean Water Projects.

Next Meeting is October 23.

Tri-District Local Fund Pool Meeting – I participated in this meeting on July 22, with Hilary, Michael (BCCD District Manager), Whitney and Jennifer Alexander. There is \$750,000 available to landowners in Bennington & Rutland counties for practices that address soil health. The deadline to sign up for this funding is August 23.

GRANTS:

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

Watershed Consulting Associates have completed 30% designs for Proctor High School and Proctor Library. They expect to have the other (2) draft designs for Proctor Elementary School and Riverside Cemetery completed soon.

Deadline on this agreement is August 31, 2024.

Otter Creek Basin Clean Water Service Provider, Clean Water Projects (Town of West Rutland SWMP for the Clarendon River Watershed)

Evan and Frank with Fitzgerald Environmental are working on prioritizing the list of potential BMP projects and will be sharing this soon.

The deadline on this agreement is June 30, 2025.

Otter Creek Basin Clean Water Service Provider, Clean Water Projects – (Sargent Brook-Cold River Floodplain Restoration/Berm Removal)

Fitzgerald Environmental are continuing to work on processing the field survey data that they have collected and there will be an on-site meeting once the field survey data and computer modeling has been completed.

The deadline on this agreement is January 31, 2025.

Ag Outreach Specialist Report: (Whitney Burgess)

Whitney reported on a site visit that she and Michael (Bennington County NRCD, District Manager) had with a landowner in Chittenden where they provided technical assistance.

Tri-District Local Fund Pool – Whitney handed out a flyer (attached) and answered questions that the Board had.

There are open houses scheduled for:

August 1, from 12pm – 5pm at the Arlington Common in Arlington

August 13, from 2pm – 4:30pm at the PMNRCD Office at 212 Main St. in Poultney

August 15, from 10am – 12pm at the PMNRCD Office at 212 Main St. in Poultney

NRCS Update: (Phylicxia Moore)

Phylicxia reported that:

- The team is continuing to work through applications and doing contract management.
- The team will be attending all day employee meetings on July 31 and August 1 at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee

FY25 Locally Led Funding Pool – Phylicxia provided an overview of the Locally Led Funding Pool process and answered questions that the group had.

Other Business:

- FY25 Core Services Agreement – Reviewed and discussed.
- FY24 Budget with Actual Figures – Reviewed and discussed.
- FY25 Projected Budget – Reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Lee and seconded by Sean to approve the budget. This was then voted on and the motion passed.
- FY26 Core Services Budget – Reviewed and discussed.
- Personnel discussion.

Next Meeting - Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 9:30 at the USDA Service Center at 170 South Main St., Ste 4, Rutland.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.