

NRCC Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2023
3:00 pm
Zoom Meeting

Agenda

1. Welcome (Rick)
2. Review and approve meeting minutes (Clare)
3. Grant proposals, approvals, and updates
 - o Core Services (Clare)
 - o Tactical Basin Planning (Clare)
 - o Project Development (Jill and Lina)
 - o Other grants updates, as needed
4. Legislative Update (Jill)
5. Budgeting Update (Clare)
6. Other business, as required

Attendance: Richard Noel, Jill Arace, Clare Ireland, Jess Miller, Emily Nummer, and Lina Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 3:12 pm.

Review of Meeting Minutes

The approval of minutes was postponed to the next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

Legislative Updates: Jill reported that the veto session of the legislature resulted in an override of the Governor's budget veto. Therefore, the additional \$250,000 to Core Services passed for a total of \$612,000 allocated to NRCC. Clare will develop a budget that is based on equal division of the funds which she anticipates will allow \$35-\$38,000 to each district and bring it to Council for approval. The goal is to have the parent agreement signed with the Agency of Agriculture by June 30 and sub-agreements out to districts by July 1. There was some discussion around district performance. Jill noted this will not be taken into account this year but is being discussed and performance measures might be identified this year to be implemented next year.

Budgeting update: Clare reported that the Core Services and Tactical Basin Planning grants are both confirmed for FY24. She will be working with program managers to develop the FY24 budget in the next month to present it at the August Council meeting.

Grant Proposals, Approvals, and Updates

- Core Services: Clare reported that she is reviewing a draft agreement from VAAFM and hopes to be ready to do agreements as soon as Council meets. Core Services historically is used to make sure districts are meeting statutory obligations such as district elections and district board meetings, and she anticipates the extra money will go towards district manager salaries.
- Tactical Basin Planning: Clare reported that FY24 work plans have gone out to all districts and sub-agreements will be sent out as soon as the parent agreement has been received from DEC.

New this year, White River NRCO has pulled out because they were not able to get their work groups funded under the agreement. The district manager was critical of the amount of reporting on this agreement and decided that if priorities for her district weren't funded, it wasn't worth it. This has prompted a conversation with DEC on how to streamline and better integrate funding sources that go to support regional planning. Clare noted that strategically, we want to encourage districts to continue with this funding source as it gives us a seat at the table in determining where funding goes and what projects are prioritized. We will work with White River to see if her concerns can be alleviated for next year.

- Project Development: Lina reported that the 2020 Project Development Grant for \$100,068 is ending in July. It is anticipated that approximately \$75,000 will be spent. There were 2 rounds of applications for a total of 71 projects from 8 districts. As this grant ends, a new grant will begin July 1 for \$144,900 and will run through July 2, 2024. It was noted that the grant was underspent partially because two districts who had been awarded funds had district manager turnover, and the new district manager chose not to move forward on the projects. Richard asked what will happen to the \$25,000 that was underspent and it was explained that this money goes back to DEC, it does not get added on to the new grant.

Other Grant Updates -

- Emily reported AgCWIP will have an RFA going out in November or December. She will be working with districts to apply for additional funding.
- Jess reported that we are getting an amendment on the Trees for Streams agreement for the Woody Block Grant. The current agreement runs through the end of the year and this will extend it to 2026 and will add \$250,000 with the amount of acreage being currently negotiated. She also noted that language was added to the agreement to give preference to projects located in the areas of the state that don't have Clean Water Service Providers.

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

The next meeting will be July 19, 2024.

The meeting minutes were accepted as presented July 19, 2023