

NRCC Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2023
8:30 am
Zoom Meeting

Agenda

1. Welcome (Rick)
2. Grant proposals, approvals, and updates
 - o Design & Implementation (Lina)
 - Otter Creek Proposal
 - o Core Services Update (Clare)
3. Legislative Update/VACD Update (Jill)
4. Other business, as required

Attendance: Rick Hopkins, Chris Von Alt, Richard Noel, Jill Arace, Clare Ireland, Jess Miller, Emily Nummer, and Lina Smith

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 am.

Grant Proposals, Approvals, and Updates

Design & Implementation Block Grant: Clare and Lina gave some background on the Otter Creek Final Design Gully Stabilization project being presented to the finance committee because it is over the \$20,000 threshold. It was noted that this project was originally submitted to NRCC last fall.

After discussion, the committee did not approve the project at this meeting and noted the following questions/comments:

- The application does not give enough information about the project. It should outline what is causing the gully to form and the dimensions of the gully.
- The quote from the engineer is not a full quote, just an informal estimate.
- Can the district pursue a 30% design first to answer these questions?

Lina will follow up with Pam to get more information about this project.

Core Services: Clare reported that she had developed subagreements and sent them out. She wanted to highlight that in response to DM feedback about cash flow and the quick pivot to flood response work this summer, the payment schedule has been amended to further frontload the amount of money to districts. \$20,000 will be paid upon execution of the agreement to help districts with cash flow.

The remaining \$15,000 will be tied to deliverables. She noted that district performance had been discussed in the past but the consensus was that this will not be a factor this year and can be revisited next year. Chris expressed interest in seeing the agreements.

Other Business: Clare reported that Lina has been engaged in legislative statute research, and she found a reference to Title 29 § Chapter 1407, which states: *"For the purposes of this chapter only, natural*

resources conservation districts shall be considered agencies of the State, and their employees shall be considered State employees.” Clare noted that we were unaware of this section in statute. There was discussion about how this would work. Research will continue.

Chris asked again that meeting agenda and information be sent 48 hours in advance.

Legislative/VACD Update

Jill reported that the Governance Committee has been meeting and focusing on the statute. There is much to learn and she anticipates scheduling evening meetings for supervisors to provide opportunities to provide information in the hope of reaching consensus.

Board development committee & VACD board: 8 out of 14 board members have been currently identified. She discussed the Otter Creek board that hasn't been active. VACD is planning on hiring someone to try to beef up the district.

The Capacity Building Committee will be meeting next week to focus on district staff compensation and job descriptions as the first task.

Chris asked if a form had been circulated to find out when supervisors were available for meetings? Jill replied that this was done for committees but not for all the board. This will eventually be an activity for the board development committee.

She will be meeting with Chris on Friday for an orientation discussion of VACD financials.

Richard brought up compensation for supervisors. Jill responded that districts should be building this into their district budgets.

Clare noted that we are going to try to schedule a Council Meeting in the last two weeks of September. A finance committee meeting will need to be scheduled right before and she will follow up by email to set a date.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 am.

Meeting minutes were approved as written 10/18/2023