

WCNRCD Board Meeting
July 11th 6:30 PM
Meg's House 795 Bonnyvale Rd, Brattleboro, VT 05301
and over Zoom

Present: Cory Ross; District Manager; Isabel Bowman; Conservation Specialist; Meg Kluge, Geof Dolman; Board Members

Zoom Participants: Pieter van Loon; Linda Corse; Board Members

FY24 District Work Plan Review

- Allows the District to create a timeline for working on grants
- Noted that the stream table and skidder bridge sections are empty as these tools are mostly paid for through grants
- Suggested changes:
 - Add employee names to sheets
 - Include base agreement breakdown
 - Make a printer-friendly version
 - Include project tracking document

District Participation in county fairs and other outreach opportunities

- The board supports District employees to attend and provide educational outreach
- Planning to improve table displays

Update on Natural Resources Conservation Council (NRCC) and Vermont Association of Conservation District (VACD) Activities

- Determined that appropriations will be split evenly amongst districts (\$35,500) after a portion goes to the council for administration purposes (\$50,000)
 - Per district, this is an increase by \$15,500 from last year
 - Administration costs include: capacity and professional development, paying district leadership to attend meetings
- Discussed increased expectations for districts to get these funds
 - More specific expectations will be developed throughout this year
 - Want to improve tracking on deliverables, possibly include all districts having the same base services
- Open meeting law discussed
 - Would like the council to follow this
 - Not necessarily required for districts

Motion to go into executive session was moved, second and passed

Meeting was reconvened

6-month performance review for Conservation Specialist

Approved the performance review and the removal of probationary label from the Conservation Specialist position

District Manager's report

- Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) approved by the EPA
- Stiltgrass workshop was attended by locals in the community
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) opened grants for technical assistance, education, and outreach
 - To apply, districts need approval from the state Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - Ideas for the application include: hiring a short-term 0.1 FTE employee with experience in conservation planning, hiring a program assistant to help with Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQUIP) paperwork, and investing in the locally led fund group

Minutes

Motion to accept the May meeting minutes with corrections was moved, seconded, and passed. 1 member abstained.

Wakeboat ruling

- The District will continue to show support of expanding the 500 ft wake boat ruling to 1,000 ft.

Motion to reiterate the District's position was moved, seconded, and passed.

Next meeting will be August 9th at 6:30pm at Geof's house.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved, seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30

**Respectfully submitted,
Isabel Bowman**