WCNRCD Board Meeting
September 9, 2026, 6:30 PM
209 Austine Driver, Thomas Hall, Suite, 112, Brattleboro, VT 05301 and over Zoom

Present: Cory Ross, District Manager; Linda Corse, and Katie Morrison, board supervisors; Heather Blunk and Emma Gregg, Ag Resource Specialist; Abby Reed, Conservation Assistant.

Zoom Participants: Pieter van Loon, board supervisor and Olivia Carlson, NRCS South Zone District Conservationist.

Land Acknowledgement: *We respectfully acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Abenaki People, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations.*

NRCS Updates:

- Local fund pool outreach can be started, just don't include dollar amounts yet.
- Programmatic updates: Sept 16 is the last day for regional conservation partnership program (RCPP).
- Last day of eligibility for FSA - Dec. (?).
- Start of October is the date if producers want to receive conservation stewardship payments.
- There are several trainings coming up.

VACD Updates:

- Annual meeting coming up November 17 - Lake Morey. It's a one day event and will include trainings.
- Cory and Linda attended the council meeting last Friday.
- Budget was approved for $912K. Same as funding for last year, they will ask that this is the new base. There is talk about trying to work on a plan to find funding that is consistent, without having to ask each year (like license plate program, etc). Action Circles is facilitating a Hopes, Fears and Dreams discussion to collect ideas and plans for finding consistent funding.
- Personnel agreements were discussed: a contract between VACD and council for Claire's position and trying to formalize that.
- There was a presentation for an environmental justice discussion with Jennifer Burn from White River District.
- Act 250/ Act 181 appropriations agenda item turned into a 45 minute discussion. Discussion was about VACD and VCRD developing an outreach plan for these acts; end result was consensus that council needs to review this plan before it's submitted to the legislature.

- Cory and Linda were in Delaware for Northeast regional meeting. Spent most of the time in a management training session.
- Linda is looking to move on from being a council rep, would like to talk in January about someone else stepping into that role.

Personnel Committee Update:

- Worked through list of current personnel policies that are out of line with how we're currently operating. Developing a list of suggested policies, which they'll bring back to the board
- They are developing a position description for Cory's position. Issues with the current policy are related to the date when raises happen and when leave balances accrue. Would like to get everyone on the same calendar.

Annual Meeting Planning:

- Scott Farm Thursday November 5, 5-8pm.
- Catered by Dim Sum.
- Free event. Cory set up donations page and will reach out to area businesses.
- Will send a massive mailing advertising it.
- Nancy Winchip Milliken and Andrew Milliken are artists who are presenting.

Rest Stop Fundraiser

- Friday Oct 2nd.
- Donuts, apples, cider.
- Really need board help.
- Try to get 2 people there.
- Katie, Linda and Pieter not available on that date.
- Possibly Sam from VLT could help out, or maybe Meg or Geoff?

Monthly Report on District Activities:

- Heather had a blast going out with Isabel, pulling stiltgrass and then kayaking. Very well organized.
- Finally have AGCWIP agreement; 2 months late but done.
- As of yesterday we have a core services agreement, will share with the full board. Deliverables include:
    - A FY27 work plan and budget by September 15
    - FY26 Financial and Project Results Reporting by September 15, including:
        - FY26 Balance Sheet
        - FY26 Profit and Loss
        - Completed FY26 Project Results Spreadsheet
        - Completed FY26 Financial Reporting Spreadsheet

- Supervisor Elections by January 15, 2027
- Any report, data, or other relevant information resulting from the district's locally led process by no later than June 30, 2027
- Certification of DM Performance Review conducted by NRCD Board of Supervisors buy no later than June 30, 2027.
- Supervisor reimbursement claims for per diem and expense incurred through June 30, 2027 by no later than July 15, 2027.

- We were awarded an Americorps for another year.
- We've been operating under a 3 year agreement from NACD to do technical planning work. There won't be another agreement right after that, there will be a gap, but the longer term agreement is in the works.

Secretary's Report:

a. Approve minutes from June 10, 2026
   i. Linda moves to accept minutes
   ii. Pieter seconds
   iii. No discussion needed
   iv. All in favor, none opposed
   v. Geof and Meg abstain because they were not there
   vi. Passed, minutes accepted 7:19PM

Social Justice Training:

- Thursday November 12, 5-8pm or 6-9pm, Heather will figure out the correct time.
- Hosted by Soulfire Farm
- We'll possibly won't do a regular board meeting that month.

Personnel Discussion (Executive Session).

a. Approval of Heather's performance review and step increase.
   i. Pieter moves to go into executive session
   ii. Linda seconds.
   iii. Brief discussion.
   iv. All in favor, none opposed.
   v. Geof and Meg abstain because they were not there
   Vi. Passed, enter executive session 7:27 pm.

b. Motion to leave executive session.
   i. Pieter moves to go into executive session
   ii. Linda seconds.
   iii. No discussion.
   iv. All in favor, none opposed.

v. Geof and Meg abstain because they were not there
vi. Passed, exit executive session 7:39 pm.

c. Motion to acknowledging Heather's excellent performance, approve her performance review and recommend her step benefit increase.
i. Pieter moves to go into executive session
ii. Katie seconds.
iii. No discussion.
iv. All in favor, none opposed.
v. Geof and Meg abstain because they were not there
vi. Passed, motion approved 7:41 pm.

Next Board Meeting:
Thursday October 8, 6:30-9:30pm, NRCD Office, Winston Prouty, Brattleboro.

Other Upcoming Dates:
Annual Meeting, Thursday, November 5, 5-8pm, Scott Farm, Dummerston, VT.
Social Justice Training, Thursday, November 12, 6-9pm (or 5-8pm, Heather is confirming time), virtual.