

**Windham County Natural Resource Conservation District**  
**Supervisory Board Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)**

Wednesday, April 15th, 2026, 6:30 pm

USDA Service Center, 28 Vernon Street, Suite 332, Brattleboro, VT 05301

Hybrid Meeting

Present: Cory Ross, Executive Director; Abby Reed, AmeriCorps Conservation Assistant; Arrow Branwen, Administrative Assistant; Kate McKay, Avian Technician; Meg Kluge, Linda Corse, Katie Morrison, board supervisors; Nina Halsted, resident and CCCD Community Engagement & Communications Coordinator

Zoom Participants: Heather Blunk, Agricultural Specialist; Pieter van Loon, board supervisor; Pieter Van Loon; Olivia Carlson

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

**Review Agenda for Additions or Changes**

- No changes

**New Business**

**1. NRCS Updates - Olivia Carlson**

- a. Passed ranking days on April 10th for AMA, RCPP, and EQIP fund pools
  - i. Windham Local fund pool forest management plans for \$25,000
    1. Four Applications assessed, might be better for comparing closer to preapprovals
  - ii. Windham local fund pool forests:
    1. 20 Applications for \$350000 local fund pool
  - iii. Small scale ag local fund pool of \$200,000, 22 applicants ranked of \$900000
  - iv. CSP ranking deadline May 8th; April 23rd south zone ranking day
- b. Conservation planning training, register through alearn, hybrid format
- c. Public portal shows different type of practices and state funding Vermont has done
  - i. Might be good to pull data when submitting grant applications

**2. Volunteer Waiver - Board to Potentially Approve Volunteer Waiver**

- a. Wanted something to use for tree plantings and water chestnut
- b. Isabel put it together using other legal waiver forms, could have VLCT look at it if needed

- i. Meg moves to approve waiver
- ii. Pieter seconded 6:43PM
- c. Meg thinks it seems pretty standard, from experience
- d. A non perfect waiver better than no waiver
  - i. Everyone in favor, none opposed, passed 6:47PM

## **On-Going Items**

### **1. Update from Budget and Building Acquisition Subcommittee**

- a. One of the spaces has another interested party for one of the spaces under consideration
- b. Not gone yet, but a decision needed in a couple of weeks
- c. Waiting on several uncertain funding decisions, NACD funds might be in question unexpectedly
- d. Might be helpful to put on a capital-raising campaign, might not be the right time
- e. Tabled for another month
  - i. Motion to convene a special meeting of building acquisition subcommittee to make final decision about office space rental and sign lease when Cory gets new information about funding
    - 1. Motion withdrawn - board decided to just convene a special board meeting when decision needs to be made

### **2. Technical Service Provider Work**

- a. Had a good meeting with NFWF
- b. Being told that dairy farms aren't getting funded, you guys should apply for funds to take care of that problem
- c. Getting steering committee meeting to weigh in next week
- d. Envisioning a proposal to fund easy work for dairy farms, and also grazing plans, certified NMP plans for dairy farms - this language got dropped from last meeting with NFWF
- e. Not really TSP work actually, because funded differently - but similar kind of work
- f. Can't fund implementation - but could fund planning
- g. Going to ask Stonyfield what work they need help with
- h. Districts might not be able to be TSPs - law against municipalities competing with private companies - but VACD might be able to subcontract the work to us

### **3. 2026 Plant Sale and Plant Palooza Planning**

- a. 8 organizations tabling, master gardeners attending
- b. Touching base with Casey at Green Mountain Orchards during plant sale prep week and event day of, coordinating where everything is going to be
- c. Trying to coordinate tents, size of tents, and where they will go
- d. Went over staff and volunteer schedules for plant sale prep week
- e. Discussed supplies needed for plant sale prep week and for the day of

- f. Abby would like to put together some sort of history of the district presentation, asked for material ideas
- g. Abby is also trying to put together a raffle, with prizes from local businesses
  - i. Meg will donate another free riding lesson; reaching out to other connections
  - ii. Local artists? Putney Diner? Honey? Coop? Bookstores?

## **Secretary's Report**

### **1. Approve minutes from March 26, 2026**

- a. Meg moves that we accept the minutes
- b. Pieter seconds motion
- c. No additions/edits, can vote even if you weren't at the meeting
- d. Everyone in favor, none opposed, motion passed 8:13PM

## **Review Upcoming Supervisor Meeting Dates:**

### **1. Next meeting: TBD**

- a. Next meeting: May 6th, tentatively at Geof's

## **Other Business**

- None

## **Motion to go Into Executive Session for personnel issues:**

- **Seconded**
- **All in favor, none opposed**
- **Passed 8:18PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Arrow Branwen