

Windham County Natural Resource Conservation District Minutes

Thursday, March 26th, 2026, 6:30 pm

Geof Dolman's House, 301 Barrows Road, Brattleboro, VT

Virtual Zoom

Present: Cory Ross, Executive Director; Heather Blunk, Agricultural Specialist; Abby Reed, AmeriCorps Conservation Assistant; Isabel Bowman, Conservation Specialist; Meg Kluge, Geof Dolman, Linda Corse, Katie Morrison, board supervisors

Zoom Participants: Arrow Branwen, Administrative Assistant; Emma Gregg, Agricultural Specialist; Pieter van Loon, board supervisor

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

- Annual Organizational Business
 - Have not had any talks about officers since reelection of Linda to board supervisor
 - Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary
 - Pieter motions for current officer set up to stay as is
 - Seconded by Meg
 - No further discussion
 - All in favor, none opposed, passed 6:44PM
 - Pieter nominated to be alternate VACD rep, Linda nominated to be main VACD rep
 - All in favor, none opposed, passed 6:45PM
- Technical Service Provider Work
 - Until recently, districts prohibited from doing so
 - Reversed a couple of months ago
 - Concern we would have an unfair advantage, would have to go to different physical space, use different computer
 - Changes to cooperative agreement
 - NFWF reached out and said they have an opportunity for us to partner with them as TSP

- i. NMPs, other management plans, for Stonyfield dairy
 - ii. Hope to open up to the rest of Vermont
 - iii. Would receive NRCS funding more easily
 - iv. No engineers, one org is going to hire one
 - v. Would be a full time job eventually, Heather would move away from NRCS planning, would have to hire someone else to do Heather's current work
 - Will be a lot more complicated to be a TSP, but funding source is consistent and stable
 - Will be competing with other providers if we become TSPs, but is a good market because there aren't many who can take on farm work and has potential to grow
 - Need to ask NFWF more questions. Without this opportunity, the relationship management of the TSP would be very challenging
 - Seems like the partnership with NFWF is worth exploring
- 2026 Plant Sale and Native Plant Festival Planning
 - Want to make plant sale be about more outreach and education instead of just a pick up day
 - Other conservation orgs can table with info, speak to people
 - Also turn it into an 80th WCNRCD anniversary
 - Reach out to Rich Earth Institute, Green Mountain ORchards if they want to sell apples or cider donuts
 - Where do we find volunteers?
 - i. Reach out to the high school
 - ii. Newsletter
 - Board is in board with the plan, keep logistics in mind, and open to helping

On-Going Items

- Update from Budget and Building Acquisition Subcommittee
 - Prepared worst and best case scenarios for spending on building space
 - Cannot commit to anything today, since VLT has dropped out due to possible legal questions
 - Do not have to make a decision today, but want to talk about options
 - Meg talked to property manager at Winston Prouty campus
 - i. Nice setting, slightly out of downtown
 - ii. Have a couple of spaces,
 - 1. One is a littler bigger than we really need, \$1800 a month
 - 2. Also two offices that were less than \$1200, 800sqft total
 - iii. One year lease, all utilities except internet included
 - iv. Public spaces professionally cleaned
 - v. Have a large conference room that people borrow
 - vi. Has a cafeteria, it is available to be rented

1. During the week, high school runs a cafe out of it
 - vii. Parking not a problem, including leaving district truck
- Cotton Mill probably not a good option, industrial and too expensive
- Vermont Building might be an option, waiting to hear back

Secretary's Report

- **Approve minutes from February 24, 2026**
 - **Motion to Approve**
 - **All in favor, none opposed**
 - **Passed 8:13PM**

Review Upcoming Supervisor Meeting Dates:

- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, April 15th

Other Business

Motion to go Into Executive Session:

- Seconded
- All in favor, none opposed
- Passed 8:17PM

Respectfully submitted,

Arrow Branwen