

**Windham County Natural Resource Conservation District**

**Supervisory Board Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)**

Thursday, October 8th, 2026, 6:30 pm

Suite 112, Thomas Hall, Winston Prouty Campus

209 Austine Drive Brattleboro, VT 05301

Hybrid Meeting, Zoom

Present: Cory Ross, Executive Director; Heather Blunk, Agricultural Specialist; Meg Kluge & Geof Dolman, board supervisors

Zoom Participants: Arrow Branwen, Administrative Assistant; Olivia Carlson, NRCS; 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**

1. None

**New Business**

1. NRCS Updates
  - a. Organic cert share reimbursement deadline Dec 31 2026 for 2025 & 2026 organic cert costs
  - b. Deadline December 17th for dairy thing
  - c. Deadline December 11th for commodity prices thing
  - d. Anyone with FY turnover, 902s got wiped
  - e. Business tools have been completed, making sure nothing impacts producers
  - f. Bedded pack workshop
  - g. (?)Guidance updated for 2027
  - h. Cultural resources part 2 happening in Middlebury for planners who haven't taken it yet
2. FY26 Financial and Programmatic Reporting
  - a. FY26 Had \$680000+, about 100k more than previous FY
  - b. Many costs were lower than expected

- c. Got some grants that weren't anticipated, able to purchase equipment for staff and projects
  - d. Overall increase in salaries was mostly because of cash in lieu
    - i. Some technician jobs stuck around longer than anticipated also
  - e. Made a lot of progress with cash flow, but has remained a challenge
- 3. Wilmington Town Beach Erosion Mitigation Project Construction Bid Review
  - a. Water quality improvements on Wilmington Town Beach
    - i. Stone toe, pavers, swale, other assorted improvements
    - ii. Due date last Friday; had a mandatory walkthrough
    - iii. Had 55 contractors come; had 2 proposals from those
    - iv. DuBois & King looked over the proposals; one we can't afford, and the other had some questions on how they were charging as little as they were for some aspects. Contractor came back with higher costs, also over budget but by a lot less than the other proposal
    - v. Held up by Army Corps of Engineers
    - vi. Also held up by trying to secure funding for additional cost
- 4. Supervisor Elections Process
  - a. Katie is up for reelection if she chooses
  - b. Press release in Reformer, Deerfield, Commons, and website
- 5. Private Fundraising
  - a. Will probably need to find more flexible funding and not strictly grant funding
  - b. Not a ton of experience in the office about private fundraising
  - c. Dave Dore with structural integrity wants to put Cory in touch with someone who can give a free consult, and probably hire a consultant to build a fundraising plan
  - d. Possibly start a foundation to have access to more funding streams

## **On-Going Items**

- 1. NRCC and VACD Updates
  - a. No recent council meeting
  - b. VACD has annual meeting coming up
  - c. Action Circles has encouraged not to broadcast intentions and details of plans
- 2. Update from Personnel Committee
  - a. No update - haven't been able to meet yet
  - b. Next meeting date: Tuesday, October 27th, 6:30PM
- 3. Annual Celebration Planning
  - a. Everything on track and going well

- b. Reminder: It is on November 5th
- 4. Monthly Report on District Activities
  - a. Skipped
  - b.

#### **Secretary's Report**

- 1. **Approve minutes from September 9, 2026**
  - a. **Pieter moved to accept minutes**
  - b. **All in favor, none opposed**
  - c. **Passed 7:38PM**
- 2. Review Upcoming Supervisor Meeting Dates:
  - a. No November meeting
  - b. Next meeting: December 9, 2026

#### **Other Business**

- 1. None

#### **Motion to move into executive session**

- 5. Meg moved
  - a. Geof seconded
  - b. All in favor, none opposed

#### **Executive Session**

#### **Future Agenda Items:**

- 1. Quarterly Financial Report (July-September)
- 2. NRCS Civil Rights Briefing

Respectfully submitted,

Arrow Branwen