

## Windham County Natural Resource Conservation District Minutes

Thursday, October 15, 2020, 6:30 pm  
Meg's house, 236 Barrows Road, Brattleboro, VT

Present: Linda Corse, Meg Kluge, Katie Ross Morrison, Geof Dolman: board supervisors;  
Cory Ross: district manager

### **Ongoing:**

#### **Equity and Conservation:**

- Keeping this on the agenda.
- Upcoming supervisor election, Linda is up this year.

#### **Current Use Discussion:**

- Ames Hill Association has been discussing whether they should keep their land in current use or take it out and do carbon sequestration instead.
- The view at the state level is that you can do carbon sequestration and still do some management.
- Carbon sequestration programs will be slow to get started; looking at how carbon sequestration could happen in the state/ on state lands.
- Carbon sequestration: not entirely old growth/ leaving forest alone. In old forests where trees are growing to a larger size, trees are not using everything as intensely, especially big trees.
- Trend looking at how to do thoughtful carbon management.
- There's a carbon forester who works for the states, whose job it is to provide more outreach on carbon sequestration.
- Question that's being looked at: how to ensure carbon management can be done in context of current use.
- No one knows where it will end up, just starting.
- Carbon sequestration: taking in carbon vs. carbon storage: holding carbon.
- In an old growth forest: 2/3 of the carbon is in the soil. Question: how does that impact carbon sequestration? Pieter not clear on the dynamics.
- There is an upcoming VLT webinar on old forests.
- VLT has worked with Liz Thompson, Tony D'Amato, Bill Keaton at UVM.
- Old growth generally contains trees that are 250-300+ years old. Not a lot of disturbance. Very little of it in VT.
- Current use says you can enroll old forest and not manage it. Must be 150+ years old and show signs of very little past human disturbance.
- There's also a clause that says if you're a nonprofit that has a mission of conservation of land you can enroll land without managing it.
- If something is going to become an old growth forest: you generally leave it alone unless you have invasive plants/insects.
- There is a pilot VLT project attempting aggregate carbon sequestration. Hope to bring program to landowners.
- Haven't heard about pushback from loggers on carbon sequestration programs; goal has been to craft programs so they're compatible with current use.
- This might encourage people to do current use who don't want to log.
- For carbon sequestration: uptake is maximized 50 years after cutting; storage is maximized 300 years after cutting.
- NRCD thinking of doing a workshop related to carbon sequestration/the carbon projects that are currently happening in the state; perhaps have the new carbon forester do the workshop.

### **New Business:**

#### **Budget Review:**

- For looking at budget summary, do we need all these docs?
- Maybe just a collapsed version of profit and loss. It might be easier to move it into excel and format it there.

### **Elections:**

- Don't need to be a landowner to be on the board.

-Linda is up for re-election; gather signatures if you can.

**Plant Sale:**

-Need to think of an alternative location if GMO is unwilling to host sale. (Katie talk to Andrea).

-May 8 is potential plant sale date.

**Game of Logging:**

-It was successful; offer more level 1 in the future.

**Other:**

-Putting together ag work groups for basin plan. A farmer list would be great in helping to create these work groups.

-Ellis Brook project: data gathering done; Bear Creek will put together plan.

**Minutes:**

-Katie will send out Sept 9 minutes

-Motion to approve Sept 22 minutes; motion approved.

**Next Meeting:** November 18 via Zoom; 6:30 pm.