

## Windham County Natural Resource Conservation District Minutes

Wed, September 9, 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, Joshua Allen, NRCS.

### Minutes:

motion to be approved; motion approved.

### Misc/ Follow Up:

-Joshua suggested watching part of the [confronting racism forum](#) that he was involved in. We need to find a spot to watch it: conference room in the NRCS office seems to small; what about one of the classrooms in that building? Cory will look into that.

-Do we want to invite others to future meeting? Possibilities: Frost Farm on Lee Road in Bratt (Meg can't remember their names); Andrew at NRCS; Laura Johnson at UVM Extension; Sam Schneski (county forester). We'll start with Sam, since we've recently been talking about issues related to current use program.

### Work Plan:

-Add a column for what time a year tasks will happen.

-It would be helpful to make sure any future new district manager sees this document.

-Staff training: would be nice if VACD/NRCC held more trainings via Zoom.

-Add somewhere: board time spent involved with other conservation related groups (add board time under "actively support local conservation groups.")

-Membership drive: won't happen this year but keep it in for the future.

-What is 'Host local work group meeting'? That's supposed to be a meeting where we invite local partners and landowners and find out the current conservation topics of concern. Sometimes it just involves a survey that we have input into: someone from the state comes and we give input about what natural resource areas should be prioritized.

-District Mailing List Development: Cory has been making progress, list is more accurate. At one point we also started looking at the town lists and collecting information for landowners. Would be good to continue that project.

### Minutes:

-Motion to approve August minutes; motion approved.

### Current Use:

-Ames Hill and Marlboro Community Club now own the land around South Pond in Marlboro. They 200 additional acres which was added to 400 acres. There was a motion to take all of the land out of current use and not log it; that didn't win out and they decided to put it in current use.

-Geoff is concerned that current use results in too much disruption (in other words: any disruption is too much). There is an alternative scheme that you can do, to sell carbon sequestration credits. At this point only large parcels of land qualify for this.

-Want to look into carbon sequestration and ways for landowners to become involved in this. There's also been talk about payment for ecosystem services, which needs to be based on what farms/landowners are already doing. In the next meeting get input from Sam, Pieter, and Andrew (Katie's husband who's a consulting forester).

### Ellis Brook RFP Process:

-Proposals due Sep 21. Three firms will be submitting proposals. Would be nice to set up a Zoom after the 21<sup>st</sup> to select a firm. The firms are in Waterbury, VT, Amherst, MA and Portland, ME. The fire district prefers to work with Bear Creek (in Waterbury). We'll meet via Zoom on Sep 22 at 6:30 pm.

**DM Report:**

- Stream table rented for September!
- Greeter program has ended. Successful despite the nuisance of managing the program.
- Will help Brattleboro Solid Waste District advertise upcoming compost workshops
- CISMA has 2 webinars coming up.

**Other News:**

- Game of Logging scheduled Sept 26 and 27 in Newfane. There are 2 spots left in level 2.

**Next Meeting:**

- Sept 22, 6:30 pm on Zoom, to select a proposal for Ellis Brook project.
- Oct 14, 6:30pm; possibly at Meg's, if weather cooperates.

**Future Agenda Items:**

- Current use and carbon sequestration.
- Quarterly financial report.