

Windham County Natural Resource Conservation District Minutes

Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 6:30 pm

Zoom Meeting

Present: Linda Corse, Meg Kluge, Katie Ross Morrison, Pieter van Loon: board supervisors;
Cory Ross: district manager

Budget Update 2020-2021

- Cory went over the revised budget, with recent changes taken into account.
- Plant sale income has been increased due to high demand and increased website traffic.
- Motion made to accept the revised budget. Motion accepted.*

DEI Work:

- NACD Task force had some recommendations about DEI action steps, Linda didn't get a chance to collate the notes from that meeting. Recs are on the NACD website.
- Cory went to a DEI workshop. A different approach: they used actors, had scenarios related to the conservation world. It was all aimed at recognizing bias and responding to bias.
- In discussing this: What are our biases (conscious or unconscious)? Who are we serving? Should we encourage folks to become more interested in/engaged in conservations? How can we increase awareness and better serve the 'underserved'.
- There may be workshops we can do to increase awareness/ better serve some populations (such as container gardening, etc).
- One thing we should be too careful about is being too dependent on email; remember that not everyone uses a computer/ can afford one.
- Districts are so driven by where they can find money. Hopefully DEI work will draw more funding.

District Manager Report:

- Doing stream table lesson via Zoom went fairly well (class was all together which made it easier).
- Plant sale: sales have been fairly evenly distributed. Have had to reorder some things. See below for discussion of location.
- Great River Hydro doesn't want to provide more money for the greeter programs (they're generally providing a smaller percentage – 25% rather than 75%).
- On bear creek project: originally plan was to remove berms, but realized berms weren't intentional and not hydrologically connected. Stream also doesn't have much diversity. A lot easier (in terms of permitting) if you move fill around rather than bring in new fill. This project isn't what we thought it was when we got into it. Ultimately goal: increase diversity of the microenvironments within the river. Bank full benches: normal rate of flow will confined and make it deeper, but will easily flood if needed.

Minutes from last month:

- Geof did answer the questions that the rest of the answered. He feels more strongly about not wanting the rest of us to move on. I'll add
- Jan 20: Meg and Linda's answers: why did I get involved.
- Motion to increase Cory's pay (revise to a motion to increase).
- Motion to accept minutes as corrected. Motion passed.*

Plant Sale:

- Katie will ask Andrea about GMO's thoughts about hosting plant sale (would like an answer about hosting plant sale this year).**
- If we end up needing to do it in same place as last year, we might be able to borrow a wagon from one of the farms in West Bratt.

NACD Annual Meeting:

-With meeting via zoom – more people able to come, but just not the same as meeting in person. A good meeting, but a lot more fun if it could've been in New Orleans. What would be great is if they could have a hybrid meeting, that's in-person and has some virtual aspects.

Next meeting: Wed March 10, 6:30 on zoom.