

## **Windham NRCD**

### **Board of Supervisors Meeting**

**December 11, 2024**

**Present in person:** Cory Ross, Executive Director, Linda Corse, Board Chair, Geoff Dolman, Board Member, Isabel Bowman, Conservation Specialist

**Present on Zoom:** Olivia Carlson, NRCS, Pieter van Loon, Board Member, Meg Kluge, Board Member, Garrett Manchester, Americorps, Heather Blunk, Agricultural Specialist, Mae Masson, Agricultural Specialist

**Started at 6:46**

#### **NRCS Updates:**

- 1 application in Windham County for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) renewal
- 22 other applications, more than the other zones
- Final application date is the 20<sup>th</sup>
- CSP classic round 1 ranking deadline in 2025
  - CSP round 2 April 18<sup>th</sup> 2025
- Non-Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) rankings (include local fund pools), Feb 7 2025
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) IRA rankings for Feb 7, 2025
- ACT NOW: Producers who have eligibility up to date and are interested in the following practices: nutrient management, manure application, reduced tillage, no till, cover crop management walk in the door and get funded, and hay planning
- CSP annual payments due this Friday to producers, data should be sent to planners to get funded ASAP

***Board to review potential Approve Petitions for Board Supervisors***

***Board motioned to accept the petition for Pieter Van Loon, seconded, and passed. Pieter abstained from the vote***

#### **Strategic Planning Consultant Bid Process**

- This is a deliverable from Watersheds United Vermont (WUV) grant that includes \$8,000 for a contractor
- This cost is likely under budget for a consultant to complete all the work
- Applications for this proposal are due February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Anticipate this work to be completed in August of 2025
- Board agrees that specific, actionable results from this planning process are desired
- Update: Top of page 6, in "direct facilitation", add "Board chair or designee"
- The Vermont Land Trust worked with Molly Lomus as a facilitator and is highly recommended (Molo Consulting)

***Board motioned to approve the Request for Proposals for Strategic Planning Consultants, seconded, passed.***

## **FY25 Q1 Quarterly Financial Reports:**

- Income:
  - A few grant agreements pay more than a quarter of the agreement, which makes the net misleading as the deliverables run throughout the year (past the timeframe that we are looking at)
    - Ex: Ag-Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP), Vermont Community Foundation (VCF)
  - We are running under in the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) grant. Cory will meet with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) on Monday to discuss updating the calendar for the grant.
- Profit or loss by class:
  - Budget against actual is difficult to make sense of due to this being a quarter budget, but the timescale is on a yearly basis
  - The tables do not rectify to zero, but we haven't spent down all our funds (ex: CWIP)
- Unrestricted funds show a negative balance, but this is from last year
- Total liabilities and equities for the quarter are \$117,390.26 (mostly in pending invoices)
- We have funding in workforce capacity grant to hire a consultant to help organize this work

## **Annual Meeting:**

- \$817.25 in donations, the event fees were \$3,146 for a net cost of \$2,328.75
- Pros: Great handouts, great atmosphere (very upbeat), food, speaker
- Cons: Band was a little loud, turnout was lower for land stewards, mostly partners were present

## **VACD Update:**

- Looking for Jill's replacement and discussing how to transition Jill out
- VACD Annual Meeting went well; the board meeting went well in approving actionable steps
  - Approved another year's contract with Action Circles
    - Update: They will not work with us on changes to statute, this will go to Council for further work
- Associate Supervisors could also be on these committees
- Linda will be attending the national meeting in February

## **DEI Self-assessment:**

- DEI committee has not met since October
- Activity: Shared favorite holiday tradition

## **District Manager's Report:**

- Plant sale is ready (except for perennials), have \$2,300 in sales.

- Proposal to NFWF for the program focused on technical and financial assistance for grassland birds was partially funded (\$170,000). Plan to meet with them about the partial funding. Funding includes looking for bird nests and reaching out to producers about these birds, and financial assistance to farmers for delayed mowing. This is a 3-year project.
- Discussed next year's funding situation with the upcoming administration. We have heard that federal agreements should be in contracts before the new year. DEC staff funded through EPA.

### **Review Upcoming Supervisor Meeting Dates**

Next Meeting: January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 28 Vernon Street, Suite 332, Brattleboro, VT

February Meeting: February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 301 Barrows Road, Brattleboro, VT

Executive Session: Annual Performance Review for Executive Director:

**Motioned to enter into executive session at 8:15 pm, seconded, motion passed.**

**Motioned to leave Executive Session at 8:43 pm, seconded, motion passed.**

**Motion to accept performance evaluation for Executive Director, Cory Ross and make necessary modifications to pay and benefits made, seconded, passed 4-0.**

**Motion to adjourn, seconded, passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:45.**