

Windham County NRCD

December Board Meeting – 12/16/20

Meeting Minutes

Present: Cory Ross, Windham NRCD District Manager; Supervisors: Linda Corse, Meg Kluge, Geof Dolman, Pieter van Loon; Marie Caduto, Watershed Planner from Vermont DEC; Julia Cavicchi, Bradley Kennedy, Ryan Homeyer and Tatianna Schreiber from Rich Earth Institute.

Meeting called to order by Linda Corse

Marie gave a short presentation on the basin planning process in general, as well as the basin 11 plan. Basin 11 includes the West, Williams, Saxtons River, CT Direct Tributaries and 26 miles of the Connecticut. Marie will send the PDFs of the presentation to Cory and he will share with the board and post them on the district website. Those wishing to make comments or suggestions towards the draft plan Marie will be writing should send them to Cory or Marie by mid-January.

There will be another opportunity to deliver public comments on the draft plan sometime this spring. The basin plan establishes priority projects that are more likely to be funded over the next five years.

Ongoing Items: Equity and Conservation. Linda has a list of questions on sustaining members from the District Operations and Membership Services Committee for NACD that she serves on. The list of questions is:

Disengagement questions:

1. Why am I serving on the board?
2. What would help me feel more engaged?
3. Do I represent who we're serving?
4. Am I an ally for the underserved?
5. Could I share my skills in other ways?
6. Is it time for someone else to serve?

Board members are encouraged to review these and come prepared to talk about this topic at the January board meeting.

Supervisory Union Meeting with the Ottauquechee Conservation District: Doodle poll has been filled out by everyone in the ONRCD. **The board selected Wednesday, January 27 for the meeting.** Linda will check with Bill on items for the agenda.

District Manager's Report: Cory has a potential supplier for black currants for the plant sale. The board discussed the issue with rust and the risk of spread to White Pines.

It was suggested that future District Manager Reports should include a reference point on current assets and liabilities so the board will know if this is an increase or a decrease, perhaps last month's balance and the balance from the previous year at the same time.

The need for improved outreach to agricultural producers was discussed in the context of the basin plan ag partners meeting. Cory is planning to prepare a webinar for farmers on financial assistance that is available from NRCS and VAAFAM.

Secretary's Report: **The minutes from the November 18 meeting were approved.**

The date of the January board meeting was moved to Wednesday, January 20 at 6:30 PM.

Future Agenda Items: Annual Performance Review for Cory Ross: Linda and Meg have worked on this and plan to share it at the January board meeting.

Tabled Item: Windham County NRCD Annual Meeting: The board discussed the possibility of holding this in the late summer of 2021, depending on the Covid-19 situation.

The meeting was adjourned by Linda Corse.