

WCNRCD Board Meeting
June 8th 6:30 PM
Linda's House 1085 Corse Road Whitingham
and over Zoom

Present: Cory Ross; District Manager; Isabel Bowman; Conservation Specialist; Meg Kluge, Linda Corse; Board Members

Zoom Participants: Phyllicia Moore; NRCS Zone Conservationist; Pieter van Loon; Board Member

NRCS update from Phyllicia Moore

- Working on EQUIP, CSP, RCPP pre-approval and obligations
- Local fund pool was submitted:
 - Main land use is still forestry
 - Terrestrial habitat took top spot
 - Similar practices as last year (weather resilience for climate smart actions, field sediment, etc.)
 - Tree and shrub establishment added
 - Question changes: applications that were not selected in the last two years were weighed more heavily
- Office space:
 - Phyllicia visited with the acting conservation state specialist to walk the property as the office space was sold
 - Another visit is scheduled for June 21st
 - Rural development is the lease holder and FSA is coordinating leasing with NRCS and Rural Development. NRCS is ensuring that we maintain office space
- Phyllicia's maternity leave:
 - In June, the new acting will be Olivia Carlson out of Rutland
 - In July, the new acting will be Stephanie Tillman
 - Phyllicia plans to come back intermittently in August
 - The District can communicate with Emma Kuester over this time. Site visits can be coordinated through Emma Kuester to include the new pathway intern (Natalie Falls).

Short-term disability leave

- Cory looked into various short-term disability policies
- Hickok and Boardman provides a longer, cheaper policy than NIS

Motion to act on the Hickok and Boardman proposal option 2 was moved, seconded and passed.

Revisions of pay and benefits policy

- Cory worked with Clare Ireland to add a salaried employee section
- Coverage begins 6 weeks after elimination period
 - "Elimination periods" are standard and mean that the benefit payment will be paid out after the event starts

Motion to approve the revised pay and benefits policy was moved, seconded and passed.

Proposed FY24 Budget

- Over half a million in income for the budget
- The large Ellis Brook income will mostly go toward Bear Creek Environmental for their work on the project
- A large part of the Long Island Sound Futures Fund Connecticut River project income will also go to the many project partners that we are working with
- \$42,000 will contribute to savings

Motion to accept the FY24 budget was moved, seconded and passed.

Greeter application information and materials:

- 5 people were selected for the greeter program
 - 3 are returning: Ashley Bies, Alejandro Hernandez, David Warburton
 - 2 new: Magnus Von Krusenstiern and Armand Tognan

Motion to approve the applications was moved, seconded and passed.

Appropriations budgets

- Veto session will be held in June
- Linda attended the VACD board meeting (Is the new president!)
 - Discussed committee creation to focus on hot topics and are looking for supervisors to be on these committees
 - Discussed statue changes: ideally want to bring the language up to today's standards but there are concerns about after opening the statue, what changes will be made

District manager's report

- Local working group document and resource concern survey included in board packet
 - Plan to discuss general district survey results when full board and staff are in attendance
- Event highlights: water chestnut survey on June 14th at 1:00 pm and birding on the farm on the 16th at 7:30 am
- Isabel taking on the QA/QC office role in LISFF Connecticut River grant after Stephi Drago left NRCD

Logo redesign options

- Changes to option 2: move river to the left of the barn and add shrubs along the stream bank
- Consensus on logo option 2 with conditions noted
- Logo updates will be sent out to the board along with the board meeting minutes prior to District use

Minutes

Motion to accept the May meeting minutes was moved, seconded and passed.

Next meeting will be July 11th (first choice) or July 10th (second choice) at Meg's house. The date will be determined via email.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved, seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30

**Respectfully submitted,
Isabel Bowman**