

Windham County Natural Resource Conservation District Minutes

Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 6:30 pm

Zoom Meeting

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

Plant Sale:

- What does Cory need to know? What's different at GMO?
- Plants kept in cooler, need to shuttle them back and forth.
- Need to clean up at the end of the day. Can keep supplies in the room but need to keep things tidy/ to the side.
- What will pickup look like? Will need to let customers know, should make a decision by April, should probably consult with Andrea about this.
- Should line up some easy-up tents in case of bad weather.
- Will need to line up more volunteers b/c we have twice as many plants as last year.
- Should we lower prices as sale comes closer? Often extras are sold day of, or could be used for trees for streams. Depends on how many are left, will consider lowering prices on the day of the sale.

DEI Work:

- CISMA is working on a project involving planting native plants and removing invasives in urban areas in Bellows Falls and Brattleboro. They talked with a consultant for an hour about how to go about this. It was helpful but also discouraging: can't just jump into a project, you need to build relationships with communities at the ground level. We have a grant we need to produce deliverables for this summer.
- Brought up the thought – we need to start building relationships with this community. How can we do this?
- Linda brought up the name Rich Holschuh, her daughter has brought up his name relating to the indigenous/ Abenaki community, he's a rep for the local Abenaki tribe. He's working at the Retreat on a program relating to indigenous outreach and education.
- SUSU Community Farm, Edible Brattleboro, Food Connects are orgs who might be worth reaching out to.
- Who is our target clientele? BIPOC community? LBTQ? Low income? Generally it's people in urban settings who don't own land.
- Anyone else we can talk to?
- How do we get this conversation started? How do you build these sorts of relationships?
- It's more effective to go in and listen than go in and tell. Listen to what's going on, who they are, what their needs are, and see if any of their needs match up with we can provide.
- Important to figure out how to listen to what they need and look to see how your project will fit with their needs.
- Will try to look for a grant that focuses spending a year building relationships before doing projects.

District Manager Report:

- Basin planning grant: lead reclassification effort for Lake Raponda (A1) (including starting a petition, getting letters of support from partners, etc). Will also participate in reclassification efforts for Saxtons River (B1) and Green River (A1). Aiming for a field trip to see dam removal projects.
- In the last decade Vermont Farmers have done a great job at reducing nitrogen and phosphorous inputs. Acid rain introduces nitrogen into the environment, via nitrous oxide.
- Fish and Wildlife Grant: we've been paid for all of that.
- Project in Whitingham replacing wastewater treatment plant: NRCD will work with Windham Regional to do these projects. Up to \$300K available for natural resources project, including buffer plantings, stream restoration, culvert project, etc. No one has been able to take advantage of the WISPr program funds. Marie decides which projects need to get done on this project.
- There is a water projects database that Marie adds projects to that need to get done.
- 350.org will provide trees and labor to orgs who can find use for them.

Minutes:

- Great River Hydro (not Green River Hydro), under district manager report section.
- A lot easier to move fill around (not taking anything away).
- Motion to accept minutes as corrected. Motion passed.*

Next Meeting:

- April 14th, Zoom, 6:30pm.

Future Business:

- Quarter 1 Financials
- Kathy Urffer of Connecticut River Conservancy coming to discuss relicensing of the CT River Hydro Dam.
- Plant Sale