

WCNRCD Board Meeting
March 8th 2023 6:30 PM Held at Geof's House and over Zoom

Present: Cory Ross; District Manager; Heather Blunk, Ag Outreach Specialist; Isabel Sullivan, Conservation Specialist; Board Members: Meg Kluge, Geof Dolman, Linda Corse

Zoom Participants: Phyllicia Moore; NRCS Zone Conservationist, Pieter van Loon, board

- **NRCS update** from Phyllicia Moore
 - In the thick of applications and rankings. Internal deadline of this Friday March 10th. This is for EQIP and AMA. All CSP has already been ranked.
 - DEC RCPP (Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Conservation Partnership Program) applications ranking deadline mid April. Partner driven. Redstart is being used for forestry. Using VACD planners. Amber Reed is supporting grazing information and plans. Heather Blunk will be assisting Emma and learning how to do these applications.
 - IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) funds have been announced and are on the NRCS Website. Application cutoff date April 21st. This is EQIP and CSP. No easements this year but hopefully in the years to come. Focus is climate smart practices.
 - Still looking to fill a soil conservationist position in the Brattleboro Office. They would technically be a Natural Resources Specialist. Tentative job offer out on this position. Hopefully it will be in place in May.
 - Emma is working on Local Fund Pool Participants. She has reached out to see if applicants are still interested. Same timeline as EQIP deadline which is this Friday the 10th.
 - CSP+ is the Vermont Agency of Ag program. Producers take assessments to the Agency of Ag and Agency of Ag then provides them with funds for completing that assessment. Not an NRCS Program. Guidance will come next week. Some payments will be retroactive.
 - Tuesday Office hours at 8:30 for NRCS and District Staff
- **Civil Rights Overview**
 - Each year the secretary and chief of NRCS write a Civil Rights statement.
 - They want to make sure they comply with Title 6 and Title 7.
 - Gender expression has been added.
 - Civil rights stuff is on NRCS Website
 - Board members are held to these standards and can be held responsible if they do not comply.
 - We went through the checklist which confirmed we have gone through all of this information.
 - In the memorandum it looks like we are missing pages. Phyllicia will look into it.
 - Board members signed the Civil Rights Review and Cory will get Pieters signature.
- **SE Supervisory Union Meeting**
 - Attempting to schedule. We are picking April 19th at 10:30. This will be over zoom.

- **Logo Redesign**
 - Isabel's mother is a graphic designer and will charge the District. \$350 to redraw the logo. She will provide options for those re-draws.
 - Board agreed it is okay to move forward with this.
- **District Managers Report**
 - Plant sales are taking off.
 - OSHA says we will have to place a report on all workplace injuries and illnesses. VACD is also being required to do this.
 - Isabel has passed her clearance and is allowed in the office now. (Yay!)
 - Marlboro selectboard decided to reject our funding request for greeters at South Pond because funds are tight. Having someone give an educational speech on our material on dock day was suggested.
- **Appropriations Process and Included house ag appropriations**
- **Should we create board behavior policy**
- **MINUTES**

Motion to accept minutes was moved, seconded and passed with correction

- Helpful to spell out abbreviations

Next meeting is April 12th at 12:30pm

Meeting adjourned 8:40

**Respectfully submitted,
Heather Blunk**