

Franklin County NRCD Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2021

In Attendance: Lauren Weston (District Manager), Lauren Gibson (NRCS Conservation Planner), Richard Noel (Chair), Phil Parent (Vice Chair), Adrian Rainville (Supervisor), Molly Magnan (Supervisor)

Conducted at Richard Noel's house in Highgate, VT

Minutes recorded by Lauren Weston

Minutes:

9:21 am: Richard Noel calls meeting to order.

9:22 am: Update from Lauren Gibson from NRCS. District Conservationist position was posted, no one was chosen, now it will be re-advertised. Mariah Choiniere is the NRCS Pathways Intern having a successful summer getting out into the field- may be back next summer as part of 2 year program or may go to a different zone. NRCS Northwest Zone spent all of their allotted FA funds for CSP, EQIP, and AMA which supports continued funding for TA. District may work with NRCS and Local Working Group to prepare a new ranking pool for things important to the Northwest Zone that are not being funded adequately currently by NRCS prioritization. Can rank practices and write ranking questions. Subcommittee meetings for NRCS funding priorities are happening this week – open to the public

9:33 am: Minutes from 2021 July 21 Board Meeting put to vote. Molly Magnan makes a motion to approve; Adrian Rainville seconds. All approve, motion passes.

9:36 am: Profit and Loss for FY21 revised with accountant changes – Molly Magnan makes a motion to approve; Adrian Rainville seconds. All approve, motion passes.

9:37 am: Profit and Loss for July 2021 and Balance Sheet for July 2021 reviewed - Molly Magnan makes a motion to approve; Adrian Rainville seconds. All approve, motion passes.

9:42 am: Lauren Weston shares out metrics on how Franklin County NRCD compares to other NRCDs in Vermont based on end of Fiscal Year Reporting. Group discusses chloride in surface and groundwater. Gap in Franklin County is stormwater – Lauren Weston is aiming to expand into this field of work in the future pending capacity. Discussed carbon offsets from trees sold during tree sale and what that metric might be.

10:00 am: Lauren Weston provides staffing update. Katy Dynarski (Projects Coordinator) and Megan Walker (Project Technician) both starting end of September as Full Time Staff. Kate Wettergreen (ECO AmeriCorps) starting end of Sept. as well.

10:07 am: Lauren Gibson leaves meeting.

10:20 am: Lauren Weston shared photos and mementos from Johnsons Mill Dam Removal which is ongoing this week in Bakersfield.

10:23 am: Discussed Natural Resources Assessment work to be done by UVM NR206 students – Board discussed importance of Road Salts, Understanding species in the region (Bioblitz discussion), Trends in

agricultural landscapes, legacy of Land Trust farms into the future, financial systems around farming (lenders). Questions to have the UVM students hopefully address without bias.

10:55 am: Lauren Weston shares update on Summer Projects for the District. Discussion around CEAP grant for subsoiler and whether UVM Extension lends those out and/or if they are good to use in Franklin County. Should they be just more natural interventions that work in harmony with the landscape? Discussed tree sale – look for Red Cedar source. Shared that tree plantings for next spring are being scoped currently; VAWQP regional coordination meeting is coming up in September; District will be helping farmers with NMP updates this fall to catch up on the backlog; still waiting on the Design/Implementation grant funding; applied for community garden grant – waiting for response; FCNRCD should start getting involved in stormwater.

11:26 am: Next meeting set for Tuesday Sept 21st from 9 to 11 am at Richard Noel's house. Adrian Rainville moves to adjourn; Molly Magnan seconds; all approve, motion carries.