

Franklin County NRCD Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2021

In Attendance: Lauren Weston (District Manager), Brodie Haenke (Conservation Specialist), Richard Noel (Chair), Molly Magnan (Supervisor), Adrian Rainville (Supervisor), Eileen Trudell (Secretary), Amanda Holland (Northwest Regional Planning Commission)

Conducted via Zoom online meeting platform

Minutes recorded by Brodie Haenke and Lauren Weston

Minutes:

9:36 am: Meeting is called to order. Meeting members at this time include: Lauren Weston, Brodie Haneke, Richard Noel, Molly Magnan, & Adrian Rainville.

9:37 am: Approve minutes from February 10, 2021. Molly Magnan makes motion to approve, Adrian Rainville seconds. All approve, motion carries.

9:38 am: NRCS update. No customers are allowed in the office. There is a Program Assistant position open with the St. Albans office.

9:39 am: Financial and grant agreements being moved up in meeting order so Molly Magnan can be present for their approval. The District recently received payment from the Agency of Agriculture for our agricultural outreach work. Wages during transition were a significant cost. Tree sale funding and planning update.

9:43 am: Molly Magnan makes motion to accept the financial statements of the profit & loss and balance sheet for FY21. Adrian Rainville seconds. All approve, motion carries.

9:45 am: Lauren Weston notifies the Board of requirement to document approval of changing access to District's bank account.

9:46 am: The District received a Tactical Basin Planning grant from the Vermont DEC through NRCC to assist the state with the Tactical Basin Planning process for the Lamoille and Missisquoi Bay Basin. Adrian Rainville makes motion to approve the grant. Molly Magnan seconds. All approve, motion carries.

9:48 am: The DEC Block Grant for the Browns River tree and willow planting at Ray Bosley's property in Fairfax, VT. The District will be taking the lead on the tree planting and willow installation. Katherine Helmer and some of her ECO AmeriCorps cohort members will assist with the tree planting in April. Molly Magnan moves to accept the agreement. Adrian Rainville seconds. All approve, motion carries.

9:51 am: Eileen Trudell is attempting to join the meeting.

9:52 am: Molly Magnan makes motion to make Lauren Weston a signatory on the People's Trust bank account. Adrian Rainville seconds. All approve, motion carries. Current Board Members include – Richard Noel, Molly Magnan, Eileen Trudell, Adrian Rainville and Phillip Parent

9:55 am: Setting a meeting date for April. April 7, 2021 at 9:30 am will be the next Board meeting date.

9:57 am: Lauren Weston gives an update on Payment for Ecosystem Services. The State Legislature has a working group collecting data on this and they are hoping to hear more from farmers. Richard Noel wants to know how they're going to measure this and sees this as the biggest hurdle to paying farmers.

10:00 am: Eileen Trudell joins the meeting.

10:00 am: Richard Noel mentions that the Board members need to sign a form to allow Lauren Weston to have access to the District's bank account.

10:04 am: Back to a discussion on PES. Richard Noel hopes that the State House group is listening to farmers.

10:08 am: Lauren Weston is reaching out to different county residents about potentially joining the Board as Associate Supervisors. Lauren Weston has received a few "no, thank yous" so far, still waiting on some responses.

10:10 am: Adrian Rainville is concerned he may not be able to make all the summer meetings and is wondering if an associate board member would be able to vote in his place. Lauren Weston to look into this and respond to Board.

10:12 am: The District's website has been updated, Lauren Weston walks through some of the updates with the Board. Adrian Rainville to send in a photo for his bio.

10:17 am: Molly Magnan leaves the meeting.

10:18 am: Amanda Holland with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission joins the meeting to give a presentation on the stormwater work happening around Franklin County's urban areas. Amanda will be presenting on non-agricultural programs working to improve water quality in the Lake Champlain Basin. Act 64, the Vermont Clean Water Act, enacted a lot of changes on water quality issues in all sectors with an emphasis on an "All In" approach.

Some of the programs that are involved in this work include:

The Municipal Roads General Permit – All municipalities need to ensure they have addressed erosion and water quality issues on their roads.

Any new development that creates a half-acre of impervious surface will need to mitigate water quality issues.

3-acre permit – The state is trying to retroactively ensure that any impervious surfaces greater than 3-acres on one parcel will need to mitigate water quality issues. Includes homeowners' associations, schools, etc.

MS4 Permit – Municipalities and VTrans need to lay out plans for how they will address erosion coming off of roads into impaired streams. The two MS4s in our District is St. Albans Town and City? Their main priority is to address pollution from high flows.

Natural Infrastructure – New rules on wetlands, floodplains, and river corridors protected these areas from development that could impact water quality.

St. Albans City and Town need to sweep the streets to collect sediment on the road before it goes into a water body.

St. Albans City and Town need to do education and outreach on their stormwater work; NRPC is working with them on a project called Franklin County Stormwater. This program might expand to other areas of Franklin County as needed, such as a new stream in Enosburg – Getting's Brook, on the 304 list, is impaired for both agricultural and stormwater concerns.

10:39 am: Amanda Holland left the call

10:40 am: Overall District updates

Tree sale – inventory is running low; sales are around \$22,500.

Tree plantings – two coming up in April.

Dam removal – final designs are close to completion; removal expected summer 2021; aiming to hire a contractor by end of April

CREP program (from VAAF, NRCS, and FSA) is back and active to get tree plantings on farmland

NMP class is going well, as is reporting on the past 5 years.

10:46 am: Tree sale. Talking about logistics for incoming tree orders and need for additional help and vehicles. Will try to get keys April 23 or 24 for Lauren Weston and Richard Noel – additional coordination required. The tree sale pickups will be occurring over a 3-day period; worked well in 2020.

10:47 am: District to be acting as Regional Coordinator for VAWQP in Northwest Zone

10:50 am: The sap is ready to run!

10:51 am: Eileen moves to adjourn meeting. Adrian Rainville seconds. All approve. Meeting adjourned.