

## Franklin County NRCD Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2024

In Attendance: Lauren Weston (District Manager), Richard Noel (Chair), Carissa Stein (Supervisor), Vicky Drew (Supervisor), Molly Magnan (Supervisor) arrived at 3:25 pm, Dan Pipes (Supervisor)

Conducted at Franklin County Field Days in Highgate, VT  
Minutes recorded by Lauren Weston and Carissa Stein

*The written minutes are a synopsis of the discussion at the meeting. Motions are as stated. Minutes will be subject to correction by the Board. Changes, if any, will be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting of the Board.*

### Minutes:

3:15 pm: Meeting called to order. Quorum present. Lauren Weston not yet participating.

Board discusses VACD Request for Proposals to Examine Opportunities for Greater Efficiencies in the Interrelationship between VACD and NRCDs sent around by Jill Arace earlier in the day for all Boards to review. Dan Pipes makes a motion to approve, Carissa Stein seconds, all approve, motion carries.

3:25 pm: Molly Magnan arrives

3:27 pm: Board discusses 401k plan proposals including need for financials about how much this would cost the organization. There are two options on the table, one with a 1% cost to employees and another with a 1.72% cost to employees. Discussed that it is typical for an organization to match each % of income up to 3% and then a half % up to 5% resulting in a max of 4% per employee. Discussed vested timeframe – when are folks eligible to start putting funds towards a 401k – settled on 6 months to match current policy with retirement stipend. Discussed that employees need to be given the details of the plans and help decide between the two options.

3:50 pm: Lauren Weston joins meeting

3:55 pm: Carissa Stein makes a motion to move forward with Intent to Continue once a set list of questions about the plans is answered and staff feedback is gathered.

3:56 pm: Carissa Stein leaves meeting.

3:57 pm: Lauren Weston tells Board that Meryl Braconnier will be leaving at end of July and would like to start hiring to back fill that position soon as another Agricultural Programs Specialist. Dan Pipes make a motion to post job opening, Vicky Drew seconds, all approve, motion carries.

4:01 pm: Lauren Weston provides an informal finance update noting that finances are moving forward according to the expected budgets.

4:08 pm: Vicky Drew provides an update on VACD's efforts in the Legislature to request funds for Conservation Districts. The house had left in a reduction to our budget, but it looks like the Senate returned our amount to \$612,000, same as FY24, with potential for an additional \$100,000 in one time funding.

4:13 pm: Vicky Drew shares about a meeting she had with the Town of Georgia Zoning Administrator about regulations regarding different zoned areas of the town. Discussed process for getting listed as an agriculture business by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets. Discussed a couple of potential parcels in Georgia to begin investigating. Lauren Weston has been inquiring with Peoples Trust Company about funding and financing options. More information needed to continue moving forward.

4:48 pm: Dan Pipes make a motion to adjourn, Richard Noels seconds, all approve, motion carries.