

## Franklin County NRCD Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2023

In Attendance: Lauren Weston (District Manager), Richard Noel (Chair), Carissa Stein (Supervisor), Dan Pipes (Supervisor), Vicky Drew (Supervisor), Molly Magnan (Supervisor – arrived at 3:33 pm), Shap Smith (legal counsel - via Zoom), Philip Woodward (Pacif - via Zoom)

Conducted at St. Albans Free Library, St. Albans  
Minutes recorded by Lauren Weston

*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:

3:06 pm: Meeting called to order. Quorum present.

3:07 pm: No NRCS updates to provide today. Sarah Larose unable to attend.

3:07 pm: Richard Noel has not attended any NRCC meetings.  
Vicky Drew has been attending a number of committee meetings that VACD is leading to try to assist Districts with shared needs.

3:10 pm: Shap Smith and Philip Woodward join the meeting via Zoom.

3:12 pm: Based on advice of counsel, Motion is hereby made, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(E) and (F) that premature general public knowledge concerning pending and probable litigation involving

Tomelleri v Franklin County NRCD

would place the District at a substantial disadvantage in that it involves attorney/client communications on matters of strategy, discovery, trial preparation and settlement or litigation options.

Motion is therefore made to enter into executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(E) and (F) for the purposes of engaging in attorney/client communications and consultation with legal counsel providing professional legal services to the District concerning the pending/probable litigation. Carissa Stein makes this motion, Richard Noel seconds, all approve, motion passes.

Board enters into Executive Session until 3:26 pm

3:26 pm: Dan Pipes makes the following motion:  
Based on advice from counsel and from VLCT, I hereby move that we consent to the proposed settlement of the threatened Tomelleri lawsuit, with the District's share of the settlement being its deductible.

Vicky Drew seconds the motion, all approve, motion carries.

3:28 pm: Board discusses upcoming VACD Annual Meeting at Lake Morey Resort on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Costs of attending meeting are shared with Board. Lauren Weston and Vicky Drew will be attending on behalf of FCNRCD.

3:33 pm: Molly Magnan arrives.

3:39 pm: Supervisors review minutes from September 12th, 2023 meeting. Carissa Stein makes a motion to accept minutes once corrected due to typos, Vicky Drew seconds, all approve, motion carries.

3:49 pm: Lauren Weston reviews FY24 financials (Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss by Month, Bank Statement, and Projected Future Income). Richard Noel makes a motion to accept FY24 Financials to Date; Dan Pipes seconds, all approve, motion carries.

3:53 pm: Lauren Weston presents the current draft of the Storyboard Ending prepared by Action Circles as part of the legislative advocacy work they are doing on behalf of VACD and the NRCDs. One change requested: final sentence should include the word "retain" when referring to staff.

3:58 pm: Board discusses board election process that is forthcoming.

4:01 pm: Lauren Weston and Vicky Drew shared that they have spoken with staff at NRCS about potentially moving offices. This effort will be ongoing.

4:04 pm: Board discusses potential restructuring/additions to Board Meetings. In particular, would like to add a "project of the month" share out with a deep dive into one project each month that the staff would like to share with the Board; there will be an emphasis on agricultural projects. Additionally, Lauren Weston will share about any challenges or needs that FCNRCD needs help with. Financial reports will continue to be sent out to Board members in advance of the meeting, but will not be discussed in detail monthly and will instead be focused on Quarterly.

4:28 pm: Board reviews and discusses changes to draft Strategic Plan presented by Lauren Weston. Small edits and changes requested and will be made by Lauren Weston. Carissa Stein makes a motion to approve the Strategic Plan with the edits requested, Dan Pipes seconds, all approve, motion passes.

4:57 pm: The next board meeting will be November 16<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.

4:58 pm: Vicky Drew makes a motion to adjourn, Carissa Stein seconds, all approve, motion carries.