

## Franklin County NRCD Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2025

In Attendance: Lauren Weston (District Manager), Richard Noel (Chair – on Zoom), Vicky Drew (Supervisor – on Zoom), Dan Pipes (Supervisor – on Zoom).

Conducted at 431 Franklin Park West, Suite 100a, St. Albans and on Zoom  
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:**

3:38 pm: Meeting called to order

Lauren Weston reviewed purpose of meeting to review bids from contractors for Trout Brook Reservoir Dam Removal in Berkshire, VT received on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Lauren Weston shared memo from SLR engineering firm which detailed bids from five contractors including: Boulder Excavation, DCS, Goodhue Excavation, GW Tatro, and Sloan's Excavating. Additionally, the engineer's opinion of probable cost was also compared to the received bids. Sloan's excavating is the apparent low bidder at \$519,000 for the entire project scope. SLR also included comments from conversations with references for Sloan's Excavating indicating high praise for past work and confidence in the ability of this group to get the project done well. SLR also detailed conversations they had with Sloan's Excavating related to project specifics, stages of work, and permit requirements; Sloan's Excavating indicated understanding of these requirements and the project components.

SLR included the following comment in the memo:

"The low bid is significantly below other received bids. The low bid is approximately 20% lower than the engineer's estimate, which is reasonable. Derrick [Sloan] said they were comfortable with their bid price. They originally were thinking closer to the engineer's estimate and bid a little lower to secure work for the summer. Their close proximity to the project site, no subcontractors, and local sourcing of wood material all contribute to efficient bid prices. Higher bids by other companies may be that their crews are both farther away and have a higher workload lined up for the short summer in-stream construction season.

Sloan's excavating has reasonable prices, crew, equipment, material sourcing, and plans for construction. References show that Sloan's to be hard working, honest, and highly recommended. Sloan's is a newer company that has lower in-river experience than some other contractors, but has expressed interest in learning and taking direction from the project team to ensure a good outcome. It is recommended that if Sloan's or another firm with low experience with in-river project work is hired that the project management and project engineering effort is increased to provide additional guidance and regulatory compliance review."

Vicky Drew commented that the memo indicates that Sloan's seems to understand the project and that monitoring for this project will be higher than normal because of the presence of drinking water supply infrastructure on project site.

Richard Noel noted that the per item bid costs for Sloan's Excavating included higher costs for dam removal and rock stabilization work than other firms, potentially indicating that they understand that these components would take more time and require a high level of care to perform correctly.

Vicky Drew made a motion to approve Sloan's Excavating bid with expectation that choosing this firm may incur additional costs related to engineering construction oversight during the project by additional firms.

Vicky Drew, Richard Noel, Dan Pipes, and Lauren Weston discussed if the addition of the language related to "additional firms" was needed in the motion. Lauren Weston clarified that SLR will be on site during project work and an additional firm beyond SLR would likely be unnecessary as SLR has expressed that they will have availability to be on site to provide necessary support to the contractor, alongside FCNRCD staff, during the project.

Vicky Drew amended her motion to: Move to accept Sloan's Excavating bid and adhere to the recommendation in the bid memo that if Sloan's, or another firm with low experience with in-river project work, is hired that the project management and project engineering effort is increased to provide additional guidance and regulatory compliance review. Dan Pipes seconds this motion. All approve, motion carries.

3:59 pm: Motion to adjourn meeting; all approve, motion carries.