

Franklin County NRCD Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2023

In Attendance: Lauren Weston (District Manager), Richard Noel (Chair), Carissa Stein (Supervisor), Molly Magnan (Supervisor) arrived at 3:19, Dan Pipes (Supervisor – appointed during this meeting) Vicky Drew (Treasurer) joining via Zoom, Sarah Larose (NRCS Zone District Conservationist)

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:

3:07 pm: Meeting called to order.

3:08 pm: NRCS update from Sarah Larose, NRCS Northwest Zone District Conservationist.

- 401 position interviews completed, going to pull in two people off of this job announcement to backfill positions.
- Engineering position, position was offered person declined, will have to re-advertise again.
- Civil Eng Tech position re-advertised open from 1/5 to 1/11.
- Soil Con position was offered to Sean Pease in Morrisville, this now means the Soil Con Tech position will have to re-advertised. This position will be located in St. Albans this time around.
- Hoping Program Assistant position will be advertised soon. Current VACD PA likely to apply, which could lead to having to re-advertise that position if she were to be selected for the NRCS PA position.
- Josh Nappi CET from Central Zone, his detail will be extended to July and re-evaluated at that time and could be extended again or might possibly be re-located permanently to the zone.
- RCPP 2132 sign up deadline Friday 1/13.
- FSA program ECP was opened up for storm Elliot, lots of people reported damage in Franklin County, a few from Grand Isle County, damage reported was mostly sugarbushes, some structural damage reported. Please encourage folks to report to FSA if they have or do experience damage from natural events. NRCS provides technical assistance for this program.
- NRCS DC's have been asked to report hours provided to District staff for training/support on a monthly basis.
- LWG discussed work with the 3 DM's to put together a FY23 Local Funding Pool.

3:12 pm: Dan Pipes is interested in stepping into the remainder of Phil Parent's term which is ongoing. Phil Parent has had some issues with being able to attend our meetings due to being an active farmer and has agreed to become an Associate Board Member. Carissa Stein makes a motion to appoint Dan Pipes to fill the remaining term of Phil Parent; Richard Noel seconds, Vicky Drew approves, motion carries.

3:15 pm: Richard Noel has not attended NRCC meetings since the last FCNRCD Board meeting, nothing to report.

3:16 pm: Discussion soliciting suggestions for who in Franklin County might be able to rent us a reefer trailer for the 2023 Tree Sale. Ideas included: TDI, Bessettes, Paul Rainville, Seth Wolcott, Brannons.

3:19 pm: Molly Magnan arrives.

3:24 pm: Vicky Drew is interested in serving as the FCNRCD representative to the VACD Executive Board, especially in capacity as assisting as vice chair to help fill open term. Carissa Stein makes a motion to have Vicky Drew serve as FCNRCD rep, Dan Pipes seconds, all approve, motion carries.

3:30 pm: Board review 2022 December 1 Board Meeting Minutes. Dan Pipes makes a motion to approve minutes as written, Carissa Stein seconds, all approve, motion carries.

3:50 pm: Lauren Weston reviews FY23 financials (Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss by Month, Bank Statements, and Project Income Spreadsheet) and a review of the comp time payment made to Lauren Weston at the end of 2022. Carissa Stein makes a motion to accept FY23 Financials to Date; Molly Magnan seconds, all approve, motion carries.

4:40 pm: Board discusses new hire: Mel Auffredou to backfill Megan Walker's open position. Also discuss possibility of adding another new staff member in a temporary capacity – Board decides not to hire anyone additional at this time. Discussion about the need for a Strategic Plan, Lauren Weston shares that FCNRCD is writing a grant with LCBP to apply for funds for a strategic planning process.

5:00 pm: Lauren Weston proposes Thursday February 16th at 3 pm for next board meeting – will need to verify date and time with other board members before selecting.

5:04 pm: Board nominates Dan Pipes to serve as Vice Chair of Board. All approve, motion passes.