**Franklin County NRCD Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes March 23, 2023**

In Attendance: Lauren Weston (District Manager), Richard Noel (Chair), Carissa Stein (Supervisor), Molly Magnan (Supervisor) arrived at 3:09, Dan Pipes (Supervisor), Vicky Drew (Treasurer) joining 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:**

3:07 pm: Meeting called to order. Quorum present.

3:08 pm: Brief NRCS update from Lauren Weston regarding staff changes at NRCS.

3:09 pm: Molly Magnan, Supervisor, arrives.

3:13 pm: Richard Noel shares that he attended an NRCC Finance Meeting recently, no major updates.

3:15 pm: Lauren Weston shares about updates on cold storage for the tree sale – have located a reefer and also have cold storage at Intervale Conservation Nursery for tree planting trees.

3:17 pm: Discussion about the idea of trying to tag along with a new office onto Franklin County Field Days – all Board members are in support of Lauren Weston reaching out to Tim Smith and Catherine Dmitruk to inquire about this possibility.

3:18 pm: Supervisors review minutes from February 16, 2023 meeting. Carissa Stein makes a motion to accept minutes as written, Dan Pipes seconds, all approve, motion carries.

3:32 pm: Lauren Weston reviews FY23 financials (Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss by Month, Bank Statements, and Project Income Spreadsheet). Dan Pipes makes a motion to accept FY23 Financials to Date; Molly Magnan seconds, all approve, motion carries.

3:42 pm: Lauren Weston shares that FCNRCD has been selected as a Host Site for an ECO AmeriCorps member starting in September 2023.

3:45 pm: Lauren Weston brings up the idea of FCNRCD hosting an intern during summer 2023. Proposal to host an intern at $16/hr up to 40 hours a week for 15 weeks (capping at $9600 for the position). Carissa Stein makes a motion to accept this proposal, Molly Magnan seconds, all approve, motion carries. Lauren Weston will interview 1 candidate and go from there, sharing back to Board, as pilot program in 2023.

4:12 pm: Lauren Weston discusses the potential for FCNRCD to absorb a VACD position in the St. Albans office. This would be Meryl Bracconnier’s position as she is leaving at the end of April. There were several questions about how this would influence interactions between NRCS and VACD and FCNRCD. What would the hiring process look like, what are the constraints of the position, what are the benefits of something like this for the District? Lauren Weston will connect with Jill Arace and Sarah Larose about this.

4:23 pm: Vicky Drew shares that she chatted with VACD team and staff about if NRCD staff should be hourly vs salary. Recommendation is for District Managers with salaries around $60,000 or higher should be salaried and VACD will be sending out guidance on this. We will aim to implement this in July if appropriate guidance is provided in time. Vicky Drew will follow up with VACD to ask if other positions at Districts should also be salaried.

4:40 pm: Lauren Weston shares information and request for volunteers for some upcoming events

4:45 pm: Lauren Weston suggests skipping a Board meeting in April and hosting in May – date TBD via email.

* 3/30 from 12:30-3:00 pm - Water and Landscape Restoration (don’t need volunteers for this, but you’re all welcome and we’d appreciate you spreading the word: https://www.franklincountynrcd.org/post/water-and-landscape-restoration-techniques-workshop-at-paul-lin-dairy
* Local Led in Grand Isle – April 11th 5:30 – 6:30 is dinner for farmers, 6:30 – 8:00 is Local Led meeting (North Hero Community Hall, 3483 Route 2, North Hero, VT, 05474)
* Tree plantings
  + 4/12 – 10 am to 4 pm – Manning Dairy Farm Planting – St Albans
  + 4/18 – 10 am to 2 pm – Houghton Park Planting – St Albans
  + **4/20 and 4/22 – 9 am to 3 pm – Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge plantings – Swanton (we really need help on 4/22 – a Saturday)**
  + 5/11 – 9 am to 3 pm – Boneyard Farm Planting in Fletcher
* **Fishing Festival – Saturday May 13th – 10 am to 1 pm (plus set up and break down) – could really use some help with this one**
* Tree Sale – every day May 1st through May 6th (May 6th is the Saturday)
* **Bioblitzes**
  + **Richford Bioblitz – Saturday May 20th (timing is unclear for now)**
  + **Montgomery BioBlitz – Saturday June 10th or Sunday June 11th (TBD)**
* We are also considering tabling at Enosburg Dairy Days the weekend of June 3-4 but we’d need a lot of help with those days and staffing (may not do it this year based on how many other Saturdays are being worked in this same time period)

**Bold** means we’d really like some help on these.

4:47 pm: Carissa Stein makes a motion to adjourn meeting, Vicky Drew seconds, all approve, motion carries.