

Franklin County NRCD Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2023

In Attendance: Lauren Weston (District Manager), Richard Noel (Chair), Carissa Stein (Supervisor – via Zoom), Dan Pipes (Supervisor), Andy Crossman (Strategic Planning Consultant)

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:

10:07 am: Meeting called to order. Quorum present.

10:13 am: NRCS update provided by Sarah Larose via email.

- Two people were interviewed for engineering positions for the NWZ, looks promising that both will accept.
- NRCS PA position offered to Caitlin Silber.
- Michael Dickhaut, new RCPP partner planner started 7/31.
- More late CSP pre-approvals were announced yesterday 8/7, working on these and finalizing up all other pre-approvals.
- Jimmy Young going on a detail here in VT, not sure how long the detail will be, depends on the need. He will be coordinating and assisting with the emergency programs and his start date is 8/14/23.
- Franklin Field Days was a success, NRCS, FSA, and FCNRCD all were present at the fair.
- Local Funding Pool was approved.
- FY24 program information is being worked on and hope to roll out soon.

10:14 am: Richard Noel shares about NRCC meetings he has attended stating there was not much to report back on beyond what was shared in June.

10:15 am: Supervisors review minutes from June 29 2023 meeting. Dan Pipes makes a motion to accept minutes as written, Carissa Stein seconds, all approve, motion carries.

10:25 am: Lauren Weston reviews FY24 financials (Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss by Month, Bank Statement, and Projected Future Income). Dan Pipes makes a motion to accept FY24 Financials to Date; Carissa Stein seconds, all approve, motion carries.

10:35 am: Lauren Weston shares resumes of two new hires: Dorothy Kinney-Landis and Charles Williamson, both of whom have started. They will be onboarding and learning from Katy Dynarski and Avery Feeley in the month of August before they leave the District.

10:39 am: Lauren Weston shares some of the summary of feedback from AdaptivaHR about FCNRCD's Human Resources policies and needs. Lauren Weston shares a proposal from AdaptivaHR to work with them to address some of the needs identified. Board members requested an estimate of hours to

complete these projects from AdaptivaHR before signing an agreement with the firm. Lauren Weston will pursue this answer and report back to the board.

10:44 am: Lauren Weston shares that FCNRCD is going to work with the Franklin Grand Isle Farmer Watershed Alliance to help with some of their administrative efforts since their previous Program Coordinator Catherine Davidson left last week. This is an interim arrangement while the Farmer Watershed Alliance decides how they want to move forward with filling that role.

10:48 – 11:54 am: Andy Crossman (Strategic Planning Consultant) reviews progress made with FCNRCD staff through Strategic Planning process. Input sought on new Vision and Mission Statements from Board. Draft mission statement that we are looking for input on: We empower and partner with land stewards and communities as an on the ground resource to benefit natural resources, water quality, and the working landscape in Franklin County and across Northwest Vermont. Lauren Weston will keep working to update strategic plan to provide finalized version that can be shared outwardly with partners and broader community.

12:00 pm: Proposed next board meeting date to be September 11, 12, or 13th pending board availability and feedback via email.

12:01 pm: Carissa Stein makes a motion to adjourn meeting, Dan Pipes seconds, all approve, motion carries.