

**Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District (RNRCD)**  
**Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes**  
**USDA Service Center, Rutland**  
**March 8, 2023**

**Supervisors Present:** Alan Shelvey, Bridget Bowen, Sean Barrows and Lee Turner

**Also, Present:** Nanci McGuire, Rachael Burt, Phyllicia Moore

**Meeting called to order at 9:50 a.m.**

**Minutes from the January 11, Meeting** - A motion was made by Lee and seconded by Sean to approve minutes. This was then voted on and the motion passed.

**Financial Reports** - for January & February were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Lee and seconded by Sean to approve financial reports. This was then voted on and the motion passed.

**District Manager Report:** (Nanci McGuire)

**District Manager Meetings** - I reported on meetings that I participated in on January 23, February 6, and February 27

**Other Meetings:**

**VT Envirothon Steering Committee Meeting** - I reported on the meeting that participated in on March 1.

**Local Work Group** – I reported on the Planning Meeting that I participated in on March 1, with Phyllicia, Hilary, and Rachael. I handed out copies of the Locally Led Conservation flyer.

**Locally Led Conservation Survey** – Rachael updated the survey from last year and handed out copies of this to the Board. Supervisors are encouraged to fill out the survey and return to Rachael.

**Local Led Conservation Meeting** – This meeting will be on Thursday, April 6 from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm at the Castleton Fire Station at 273 VT-Rt 130, Castleton.

**Spring Tree Sale 2023** –We have received over 60 orders. The deadline to order is March 31.

Trees will be shipped to the Rutland Town Highway Garage the week of April 17.

Inventory and tagging the trees will begin the week of April 24. **Pick up is Saturday April 29.** I need as many of you as I can get to be there on Saturday, April 29 so PLEASE mark your calendars now.

Ken with Gagnon Lumber has agreed to donate lumber to the District again this year for bluebird and bat houses. I have been in touch with the Stafford Tech. Cabinet Making teacher and he is working on getting materials so that he and his students can begin building the bluebird and bat houses.

**GRANTS:**

**Tactical Basin Planning** – I reported on the Regional Tactical Basin Planning Meeting that Alan and I participated in on January 27, with Angie Allen (Basin Planner), Pam Stefanek (Otter Creek NRC, District Manager), Hilary Solomon (PMNRC, District Manager) and Barbara Pulling (Rutland Regional Planning Commission RRPC)

Next Meeting will be in late June.

**Otter Creek Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) Meetings** - I reported on meetings that I participated in on January 25 and on February 22

**Next meeting is April 26.** This meeting will concentrate on a review of the process of soliciting and approving projects for funding.

**NRCC Design & Implementation Block Grant 2021** (Stormwater Facility on West Seminary St., Brandon)

Andres Torizzo with Watershed Consulting Associates and I met with the Town of Brandon Select Board on February 13, to discuss this project with the Select Board and to get approval to move forward with 60% design plans/specifications for the Stormwater Facility on West Seminary Street. The Select Board are in support of this project and are looking forward to reviewing the revised 60% plans/specifications once they have been completed. Andre's plan is to have the plan completed by the end of March or early April.

**FY22 LCBP Clean Water and Healthy Ecosystems Grant** (Town of Proctor SWMP)

I participated in a kick-off meeting with Watershed Consulting Associates, Michael Ramsay (Town Manager) and Kyle Thornton (Public Works Foreman) on January 17.

Watershed Consulting displayed a map of the Town with surface water layers. Michael and Kyle helped to identify locations on the map with high impervious coverage, areas with existing flooding or stormwater problems and any other areas of concern. The next step is for Watershed Consulting to complete a GIS analysis to identify potential project locations including information collected from this meeting and schedule field visits.

Michael and Kyle are looking forward to working closely with Watershed Consulting Associates and the District on this project.

**Otter Creek Basin Clean Water Service Provider, Clean Water Projects in the Otter Creek, Lewis Creek, and Little Otter Creek Basins** (Stormwater Master Plan for Clarendon River Watershed in the Town of West Rutland)

I applied for this funding to hire an engineering consultant to develop a SWMP for the Clarendon River in the Town of West Rutland on February 8. This application was approved for funding on February 22. The next step will be to receive an agreement from the Otter Creek Basin Clean Water Service Provider for this funding.

**Ag Specialist Update:** (Rachael Burt)

Rachael reported that she:

- Attended UVM Cover Crop and No Till Conference
- Attended Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition Meeting
- Attended UVM Extension Staff Meeting
- Held Beef Nutrition and Grazing Management Workshop
- Held/Attended NRCS Programs Workshop
- Completed/Sent out January Newsletter
- Working with UVM Extension for Soil Health Cohort
- Working with Cheryl Cesario (UVM Extension Grazing Specialist) to host Grazing Management/Grazing Plan class
- Completed RCPP NMP Class - all farmers were sent to Heather Darby at UVM for approval
- Working on getting together soil sampling information and list for 2023
- Signing up farmers for drill use
- Wrote a grant for training and education funds
- Working on LWG & Locally Led Conservation Planning meeting etc.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Update:** (Phylicxia Moore)

**USDA Civil Rights Overview and Equal Opportunity Annual Review** – Phylicxia provided this training. After completing the training, the Board signed the Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist.

**Phylicxia reported that:**

NRCS is continuing to process and prioritize program application rankings for the internal deadline of March 10<sup>th</sup> and state deadline of March 17<sup>th</sup>. The date for applications under the Inflation Reduction Act in Vermont has been set with an application consideration cutoff date of April 21<sup>st</sup>. More details can be found here: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/vermont/news/the-date-for-applications-under-the>

We also participated in the Soil Health workshop hosted by PMNRCD on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> to provide producers with updates on available Soil Health practices, implementing those practices, and general conservation programs.

The PMNRCD, Rutland NRCD, and hopefully, Bennington NRCD are planning for a combined Local Led Conservation meeting on **April 6th**, from **3-5 pm** at the **Castleton Firehouse, 273 VT-Rt 130, Castleton, VT 05735**. NRCS will plan to be in attendance to provide additional support and program information.

**Other Business:**

**NRCC Update** (Alan Shelvey) – Alan reported on the NRCC Board Meeting that he participated in on February 8

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 9:30 at the USDA Service Center

**Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.**