

Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District (RNRCD)
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
USDA Service Center, Rutland
August 24, 2023

Supervisors Present: Alan Shelvey, Mike Pedone, Sean Barrows and Lee Turner

Also, Present: Nanci McGuire and Jennifer Alexander, Agronomy Specialist

Meeting called to order at 9:45 a.m.

Minutes from the July 20, Meeting - A motion was made by Sean and seconded by Lee to approve minutes. This was voted on and the motion passed.

Financial Report – The report for July was reviewed and discussed.

A motion was made by Sean and seconded by Lee to approve the financial report. This was voted on and the motion passed.

District Manager Report: (Nanci McGuire)

District Manager Meetings - I participated in meetings on July 24 and August 21.

Next District Managers Meeting - September 7.

GRANTS:

Tactical Basin Planning (TBP) – Otter Creek Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) Meeting - I participated in this meeting on July 26 where we reviewed Round 2 Project Proposals for the Otter Creek (CWSP) Formula Grant funds.

#1) Middlebury College – Wetland restoration on 2 acres of floodplain-wet clayplain forest that drains to the Otter Creek.

Amount requested \$67,200 (\$57,000 for implementation and \$10,200 for design)

#2) Town of Shoreham – Natural Resources Project Assessment & Development. The Town will identify and assess (5) potential projects with the goal of developing (3) of the most feasible projects. These projects are likely to include culvert replacement, floodplain restoration and wetland restoration.

Amount requested \$20,000 (\$17,000 for engineering consultant and \$3,000 for the Town)

#3) City of Vergennes – Natural Resources Project Assessment & Development. The City will identify and assess (6) potential projects with the goal of developing (3) of the most feasible projects. These projects are likely to include culvert replacement, floodplain restoration, wetland restoration and stormwater projects previously identified in the City's Stormwater Master Plan.

Amount requested \$24,000 (\$21,000 for engineering consultant and \$3,000 for the Town).

After review and discussion all 3 projects were approved to receive funding.

Mike Winslow gave an update on Round 1 projects status.

Next Meeting is October 25. Following this meeting Round 3 Request for Proposals for Otter Creek (CWSP) Formula Grant funds will be released (late October/early November).

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

Watershed Consulting has completed the 100% design and has shared this and bid documents with me and the Town Manager.

The next step is to set up a time to meet with the Town Selectboard to get their approval on the design.

The deadline on this agreement is October 1, 2023.

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

I participated in a meeting with Kerrie Garvey with Watershed Consulting and Judy Frazier the new Town Manager on August 16. The goal of this meeting was to meet Judy and review the scope of work.

The next step is to coordinate the Community Visioning Meeting. The goal of this meeting is to engage residents, municipal officials, and state and regional stakeholders and get their input on selected projects. Judy prefers to have this meeting in person. The meeting is likely to be held in September or October at the Proctor high School.

The deadline on this agreement is August 31, 2024.

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

I have emailed Evan Fitzgerald to remind him that we need to have a kick-off meeting and he said that he is busy with flood recovery but would get back to me with some dates SOON.

The deadline on this agreement is June 30, 2025.

Wallingford Elementary School Stormwater BMP Project Implementation

I am still working on setting up a meeting with Watershed Consulting, a representative from the Town Selectboard, the Town Administrator, and the new Director of Maintenance for the school to look at the design and discuss the details of this project.

Agronomy & Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) Update: Jennifer Alexander

- Jennifer reported on farms that she is working with who were impacted by the July flooding.

Heather Darby and Jeff Sanders also came down to meet with a couple of these farms.

Jennifer also sent emails to farms about contacting FSA to report not only flood damage but also wind damage. FSA also wants to know about decreased forage values due to not being able to harvest crops in a timely manner due to all the rain.

- Currently finishing up ACAP semi-annual report
- Scheduling farms for the no-till drill for cover crop planting
- Ramping up for fall soil sampling for RCPP farms
- Planning winter NMP update classes
- Pay for Performance program data entry
- Preparing for CEAP and VHCB applications assistance requests
- Providing technical assistance to the Farmer Soil Health Innovative Network (FSHIN)

Other Business:

The Board reviewed an overview of financials from 2017-2022 that Alan created and discussed which projects accomplished the most benefit.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 28 at 9:30 at the USDA Service Center at 170 South Main St. in Rutland

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.