

**Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District (RNRC D)**  
**Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes**  
**Clarendon Grange hall**  
**March 7, 2024**

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

**Also, Present:** Nanci McGuire, Olivia Carlson (NRCS) and Whitney Burgess (Ag Outreach Specialist)

**Meeting called to order at 9:38 a.m.**

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

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

**Ag Outreach Specialist:** (Whitney Burgess)

Whitney reported that she:

- Attended the Local Work Group Meeting on February 29, at the Manchester Library.
- Has completed the Soil Health, Nutrient Management and Crop Management classes.
- Is working on updating Nutrient Management plans.
- Plans to attend the Rutland County Listening Session on March 20, at the VT Farmers Food Center in Rutland.

**NRCS Update:** (Olivia Carlson)

- Planners are continuing to move forward with applications that have been submitted before the consideration date of October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for Fiscal year 24 for programs such as CSP, AMA, EQIP. Any of the participants who returned their applications past that date will be assigned to planners and those planners will then continue to work to schedule site visits. Ranking deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. We will know most of the preapprovals by mid-April. It is our hope that most of the applications can be obligated by June. The current tri district fund pool as well as IRA funding will also be included in that timeline.
- Office renovations are underway, and phase 1 has been completed. Phase II will be completed end of April. During phase II we are to use the front door. Be cautious of the construction crew and appointments are recommended but not required. Signage will let the district board know where the FSA side and NRCS side are located.
- Devon Snyder has been onboarded; As you transition your meetings back into the conference room. Phyllicia will bring both Devon Snyder and Luke Scannell to a board meeting to introduce them.

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

**District Manager Meetings** - I participated in meetings on January 22, February 5, and February 26

**OTHER:**

**Otter Creek Coordination Meeting** – Alan and I participated in this meeting on January 18.

Julie Butler, Fish Biologist with the US Fish & Wildlife Service invited partner organizations who are working in the Otter Creek watershed to this meeting to discuss how we as a group might partner on future projects. Erin Rogers with Trout Unlimited will create a map with projects that partners are currently working on.

The next meeting is March 28, from 9:30 – 11:00 via zoom. You are all invited to attend.

**Skidder Bridges** – All (3) bridges have been rented.

**Tree Sale** –Information and order forms were emailed/mailed to over 500 customers on January 21. The deadline to order is March 29. Pick up is Saturday, April 27 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Rutland Town Highway Garage.

A press release was sent to the Rutland Herald, Mountain Times, and the Manchester Journal. There will be ads in Seven Days and in the Mountain Times. I have posted this on the Districts FB page and on our website and VACD's website.

**Trout Sale** – Pick up is Saturday, May 18.

**GRANTS:**

**Tactical Basin Planning (TBP) –**

**Otter Creek Basin Water Quality Council Meeting** – I participated in this meeting on January 24, where we reviewed, discussed, and approved (5) applications for Round 3 Clean Water funding.

- #1. Vermont Land Trust - Riparian Plantings on (2) properties in Weybridge
- #2. Vermont Family Forests – Erosion Control on Logging Roads in the Bristol Town Forest
- #3. ACRPC - New Haven River Floodplain Restoration (Preliminary Design)
- #4. Trout Unlimited – Baker Brook (Danby) Floodplain Restoration (Final Design)
- #5. RNRCD – Cold River- Sargent Brook Floodplain Restoration (Preliminary Design)

The next meeting is April 24.

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

Watershed Consulting Associates are working on completing the (4) 30% designs that were discussed with the Town.

- #1. Proctor High School (Infiltration Chambers or Bioretention)
- #2. Elementary School (Bioretention, Sand Filter, or Gravel Wetland)
- #3. Proctor Library (Bioretention)
- #4. Riverside Cemetery (Swale Improvement or Sand Filter)

Watershed Consulting has until May 1, 2024, to complete these designs. 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)

Fitzgerald Environmental is working on field surveys and on identifying 20-25 potential projects. This should be completed by March 31.

The deadline on this agreement is June 30, 2025.

**Round 3 RFP for Otter Creek Basin Clean Water Service Provider, Clean Water Projects** – (Sargent Brook-Cold River Floodplain Restoration/Berm Removal)

We have a fully executed agreement with the ACRPC dated February 15, 2024, and a contract with Fitzgerald Engineering to develop a preliminary (30%) design for the selected alternative and a report to include a preliminary cost opinion, 30% design drawings, and a list of permits required for project implementation. There will be a kick-off meeting in April or May.

The deadline on this agreement is January 31, 2025.

**Other Business:**

**VT Rivers & Roads Training Program** – Sean gave an update on this program and shared the schedule with the Board.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 9, at 9:30. Location TBD

**Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.**