

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION COUNCIL
Minutes of July 16, 2009

Meeting called to order by Bob Drachman (Vice Chair) at 9:30 a.m.

Voting Members Present:

Bob Drachman RNRCD representing Otter Creek SU
Ed Lewis, PMNRCD representing Southwest SU
Henry Robinson, Grand Isle, representing Northwest SU
Meg Kluge, WNRCD representing Southeast SU, Chair
Rick Hopkins, representing VT ANR-DEC-WQ
Jim Leland, representing VTAAFM
NorthEast and Central SUs not represented

Non-Voting Attendees Present:

Jeff Cook, VAAFM
Judy Doerner, NRCS
Diane Bothfeld, VAAFM
Amanda Priestly, Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Coordinator, VAAFM
Barbara Burns, Forest Health Specialist, VAAFM
Larry Kasden, ONRCD
Michelle Gudorf, LCNRCD
Jerry Yates, FCNRCD
Jolene Hamilton, DM WNRCD
Bridget Bowen, RNRCD

1. Diane Bothfeld (e-mail Diane.Bothfeld@state.vt.us) presented report of the Vermont Dairy Task Force (Executive Summary attached).
 - a. In an attempt to add value to VT dairy products the Task Force suggested creating a Keep Local Farms label for VT dairy products and setting up a Keep Local Farms marketing program
 - b. The task force suggested that Farms create and participate in VT Farm Safety programs that could save as much as 25% in workman's comp. insurance and suggested that Farms inform insurers of their safety program when negotiating insurance policies.
 - c. As a result of the dairy task force, Dairy management Teams have been established to provide individual assistance to VTs dairy producers using a team approach. Dairy farmers have the opportunity to select their own team of dairy professional to provide advice and information to farm management priorities to improve profitability on the farm. VT now has 18 teams participating in this program.
(Brief outlines of several possible activities for Districts are attached).
2. Barbara Burns and Amanda Priestly discussed threats to Vermont's forests from destructive insects.
 - a. Woolly adelgid – mostly spread by birds, came from Japan, appears as furry cotton fluff along outer branches seen in the fall.

- b. Asian Long Horned Beetle – likes maples and other hardwoods. Adult shiny black beetle with a few white spots and long antennae comes out in mid summer and early Fall. Damage to trees by larvae is extensive but not visible externally. Worcester, Mass., 40 miles from Vt. Border, was recently attacked. About 18,000 infested or threatened trees were felled, chipped and burned or buried there to stem the spread of the infestation.
- c. Emerald Ash Borer – comes out in summer, leaves a D shaped exit hole. Contact Amanda Priestly for literature about these invasive and destructive pests. Some of these materials are available from your Council representative. See attached for suggested participation of Districts and available consultants with phone numbers.

Chairmanship assumed by Meg Kluge at this point.

- 3. Minutes of April meeting accepted with change to note that Ed Lewis was present at that meeting
- 4. Bob Drachman presented a Financial Report
 - a. Council will get approximately \$124,000 to be used by Council and Districts.
 - b. Motion made by Ed and seconded by Bob and passed to establish policy that bills from districts must be submitted within 30 days of the expense or receipt of invoice to insure payment by Council Treasurer
 - c. Council approved payment of all bills Jeff reported receiving
 - d. Jeff would like Council to approve requests for payments prior to his paying them
 - e. Motion by Ed, seconded by Hank and passed that \$8000.00 be sent to each district
 - f. Motion by Meg, seconded by Bob and passed that Jeff is authorized to pay 2010 reimbursement requests for DM meeting on July 7-8, 2009, from 2009 budget balance.
 - g. Jeff will help Bob in preparing the Council Budget for 2010. This draft of the proposed Budget will be circulated to Council members for their review and approval or rejection.
 - h. No conclusion has been reached on the issue of who will perform and pay for auditing of State grant funds.
 - i. Ag Agency will be processing payments on a quarterly basis.
 - j. Jim Leland presented council with a letter from Dave Lane indicating what services VTAAFm will provide to council and what services requested by Council, VTAAFm will not provide. The letter wasn't discussed at this meeting due to lack of time, but Jim encouraged council members to read and discuss at their earliest convenience.
 - k. Meg resigned as chairperson. Bob, as vice chair, will act as chair.
- 5. Next meeting, tentative, will be Thursday, October 22, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. to preserve the four meetings per annum schedule.
- 6. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon

Submitted by Larry Kasden and Bob Drachman

