

# State Natural Resources Conservation Council

An Agency of Vermont State Government, Serving Vermont's 14 Conservation Districts

## **NRCC Meeting Minutes September 13, 2016**

### **UVM Extension Classroom, Barre**

**Present:** Bill Manner (Southeast Union Rep), Alan Shelvey (South Central Union Rep), Mike Raboin (Central Union Rep), Rick Hopkins (VT DEC); Richard Noel (Northwest Union Rep), Corrina Parnapy (Winooski NRCD), Kerry O'Brien (NRCC Administrator, Caledonia County NRCD), Louise Waterman (VTAAFM), John Thurgood (NRCS), Jill Arace (VACD); Ed Lewis (Southwest Union Rep); Beth Moser-Duquette (PMNRCD)

**Absent:** UVM Extension Representative, Northeast Union Rep

**Meeting Opened:** 11:20 Rick called the meeting to order

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** Alan Shelvey moved and Louise Waterman seconded to approve the previous meeting minutes as printed. The motion was approved

**Finance Committee Update:** Finance committee has a conference call on 9/13. They reviewed monthly reports. The signatory authorizations for NRCC's bank account needs to be updated. Kerry issued forms to do this. There should be at least two board members as authorized signatures in addition to the Administrator and the bookkeeper. It was discussed that currently the bank accounts will be staying at Passumpsic Bank (it was decided at a previous NRCC meeting that the accounts would move to VSECU). NRCC had also previously suggested that bookkeeping shift to VACD, but it is more cost effective and efficient for bookkeeping to stay at Caledonia County NRCD, but to add bookkeeper as authorized signature to adhere with NRCC's Financial and Operating Procedures. Alan moved that the accounts stay with Passumpsic Savings Bank, Bill seconded. The motion was approved.

The Finance committee also discussed NRCC taking on the contract for the VACD/Conservation District's annual meeting on Oct 11 and 12<sup>th</sup>. If VACD took this contract they would be charged tax and cost participants approximately another \$20 each. Since NRCC is a state agency they would not be charged. VACD would reimburse NRCC for all expenses for the meeting. Bill moved that NRCC sponsor the Annual Meeting and create a new budget category to reflect this, Mike seconded. Alan expressed concerns. The rest of the board felt that the savings were significant, and that the meeting is seen as the Conservation Districts annual meeting, most of the attendees are government employees. The motion was approved with one dissent from Alan.

### **NRCS-NRCD MOU Update:**

Committee met and released a draft to the Districts and other stakeholders for review, the committee met yesterday to compile feedback and redraft. The committee focused the Cooperative Working agreement. This is the agreement that would be the same for all Districts statewide. NRCC reviewed the entire document and made edits and comments.

Rework of technical standards and job approval was the primary part of the edits and discussion. The document needs to be in final draft by Sept 28<sup>th</sup> for meeting with Secretary Ross. NRCS requested support from NRCC to move forward. NRCC endorsed their support of the MOU with the comments addressed from today.

**NRCC Administrator Update:** Kerry shared the FY2016 Financial and Project Results reporting and discussed the task of summarizing this information for annual reports and to communicate with partners and legislators. Kerry will be working with DMs to continue to refine the reporting to better communicate our work

**VACD Update:** Jill provided an update on the VACD annual meeting. There are three new District Managers – Eliza Rudegair in Windham County, Marina Welsh in White River and Jeannie Bartlett in Franklin County. Marina and Jeannie are also Land Treatment Planners for VACD which allows them to build up the work with their District to more full time work while being supported by other activities. VACD has 26 employees, not all full time, and VACD is working on FY2018 funding.

**Supervisor Union Updates:** Mike reported that Mary Childs resigned from White River NRCD and is now working for VTAAFM. Franklin County is working with Jill to help transition their District to the District Manager. Beth Moser-Duquette reported for the South Union – she is considering joining NRCC as the Rep to replace Ed, is seeking to include Bennington in this discussion.

**Other business:** Rick is retiring and NRCC will need a new Chair. Alan was willing to serve as the interim Chair. Bill nominated Alan and Mike seconded. The motion was approved and Alan Shelvey is the new Chair of NRCC. NRCC expressed appreciation for Rick's service to NRCC for many years.

Next meeting December 1, 9:30-12:30

**Meeting adjourned: 1:20pm**