



## **Connecticut River Watershed Farmers Alliance**

March 24, 2016

WRJ USDA Service Center

12:00pm-2:00pm

Present: Paul Doton, Tom Beaudry, Steve Stocking, Amy Richardson, Bill Emmons, Linda Corse, Katherine Adams, Walt Gladstone, Dan Hudson (UVM), Mary Childs (arrived at 12:45pm), Ron Rhodes (arrived at 1:30pm).

### **12:00pm-12:15pm**

#### *General Business*

Meeting minutes from March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting were approved.

#### *Support Letters*

The letter of support to the Ottauquechee Conservation District was affirmed with a request to change the description of the CRWFA in the project proposal to align with the CRWFA goals.

#### *Mailbox*

Paul set up a medium sized mailbox in West Lebanon. Mail can be received and forwarded from this box. The CRWFA mailing address will be:

CRWFA

10 Benning Street, PO BOX 245

West Lebanon, NH 03784-3402

### **12:15pm-2:00pm**

#### *By Laws*

By Law review is complete. Beth will be moving forward in filing with the Secretary of the State of Vermont.

#### *Bank Options*

ACTION: Paul and Linda will continue working on bank options.

#### *Partner Options*

Dan Hudson from UVM extension was present and provided comment and advice to the CRWFA on different roles, projects, needs, and partnerships in the CT River Watershed. Jen Colby, UVM Extension, will be invited to the next CRWFA meeting.

#### *Website Design*

Discussion continued about website purpose, content, and design. The website will provide a place for information dissemination and help establish CRWFA presence.

*Membership Campaign Brochure Ideas*

One of the next steps with the CRWFA will be recruiting members. Discussion continues around what benefits CRWFA members will receive.

ACTION: Katherine volunteered to design a CRWFA brochure. Amy will help with brochure content and language.

*Other Business*

Discussion was had about the priorities and work of the CRWFA. The mission statement and goals have been drafted, but conversation will continue about focus and priority of the CRWFA. A block of time will be set aside for a more in depth discussion at the next board of directors meetings.

**1:30-2:00pm**

*Partner Share*

Ron Rhodes from the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) joined the meeting to share about his organizations work in the watershed. Ron encourages working partnerships with all watershed organizations and is ready to support the CRWFA. Much of Ron's work right now relates to improving wildlife habitat and water quality through dam removals, tree plantings, and culvert replacements. Ron has also managed programs that provide financial assistance to farms enrolled in NRCS programs to help cover the farmers cost share. The CRWC serves landowners throughout all the states in the CT Watershed.

The group also discussed the re-licensing of the Wilder Dam. Many landowners are impacted by the dams on the CT River. News of Trans-Canada selling the dams and the re-licensing process is a hot topic in the CT River valley.

*Next Meeting*

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-12:00pm

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Meeting adjourned 2:22pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Childs