

Connecticut River Watershed Farmers Alliance Board Meeting
10am March 6th, 2017 at the WRJ USDA Service Center

Board present: Paul Doton, Steve Stocking, Bill Emmons, Linda Corse, Walt Gladstone, Jeff McNamara, Guy Crosby, Amy Richardson, Mike Dolloff, Katherine Adams

WRNRCD Representative: Marina Welch, taking minutes

UVM Ext. Representative: Dan Hudson

Public/partners: Marie Caduto (DEC Watershed Coordinator), Cory Hagen from Yankee Farm Credit, Joe Tisbert with VT Farm Bureau

Members: Jed Davis, Kevin Kaija

Welcome at 10:10am

General Board Discussion

Approved February minutes.

New members— David Ainsworth. Approved

Treasury Report— \$2,137 current balance. \$200 in dues came in since last meeting. Accepted.

Marie Caduto-DEC Watershed Coordinator

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-Discussion on what a Tactical Basin Plan is. Marie covers Basins 10-13 (Ottawaquechee south through Windham county). Currently working on Basin 10 TBP.

-5 planners to cover 15 basins.

-Lake Champlain watershed is 47% of VT; Connecticut River watershed is 43%

-Goal of TBP is to restore, protect and preserve waters of the state.

-Can access river/stream survey summaries online on DEC website

-0.6% of N in Long Island Sound is from VT agriculture

-Nutrient loading, flow alteration, reservoirs/runoff, and sedimentation are biggest concerns for CT Watershed

-Nitrogen is biggest nutrient concern for LIS because it's salt water and has different limiting nutrient than Lake Champlain (P because it's fresh water)-Nitrogen is manageable!

-Marie suggests focusing on buffers to improve multiple resource concerns

Action: provide info on ag focus areas, bring forward projects for implementation-can get funding through DEC for projects and purchase of equipment

Joe Tisbert; President of VT Farm Bureau

Been working with DEC to discuss funding projects to improve water quality. Exploring stable funding ideas to help farms address water quality issues. Tile Drainage plan coming out in 2022 so trying to collect and analyze data in VT to help drive and focus that.

Came up with a list of topics to bring up to legislators.

Action: send project ideas/ag focus areas to VT Farm Bureau to help coordinate future focus, send success stories to be put in their newsletter and shared

Grant Update

-Organizational development is fully funded, except for \$5,000 towards equipment. That is being put into another application if we decide to. It's the Agency of Ag conservation equipment funding pool (50% match required).

-About a 2 year timeframe to finish deliverables in agreement; will sign agreement by early April and get specific deadlines

-WRNRCD RAP Education and Outreach project includes CRWFA for outreach for events and is allocating them \$800

Action: Read the proposal and bring feedback to next meeting

By-Laws

Issue: Section 3 Voting Rights-one vote per membership (does this mean one vote per farm or one vote per member even if there are multiple members from one farm?)

-Motioned to clarify that one farm gets one vote, but donations are accepted.

Action: Edit the by-laws to include text about one farm one vote. Will review at next meeting and vote.

Issue: Section 4-no information on how to nominate board members

Action: Add text to clarify the nominating process. Will review at next meeting and vote.

NRCS Talking Points

State Tech. Committee meeting on the 22nd

Katherine sent around possible talking points, focused on cover cropping and manure stacking sites.

What about manure injection? Flow alterations?

Upcoming Dates

NMP Update Class in WRJ-April 4th

WUV Meeting-April 13th

ONRCD Local Work Group Meeting-April 18th

White River NRCD Local Work Group Meeting-May 2nd

Next meeting March 27th 10-12

Meeting adjourned at 12:45pm

Minutes taken by Marina Welch