

Connecticut River Watershed Farmers Alliance Board Meeting
10am April 27th, 2017 at the WRJ USDA Service Center

Board present: Paul Doton, Steve Stocking, Bill Emmons, Guy Crosby, Katherine Adams, Ed MacGlaflin, Linda Corse, Amy Richardson, Mike Dolloff

WRNRCD Representative: Marina Welch, taking minutes

UVM Ext. Representative: Dan Hudson, Kimberly Hagen, Jenn Colby

Public/partners: Danielle O. (DEC Watershed Planner), Chris Urich (Southern Regional Planning Commission), Carl Majewski (UNH Ext.), Marie Caduto (DEC Watershed Planner), Mary Russ (White River Partnership)

Members: Jed Davis

Welcome at 10:10am

General Board Discussion

Approved March minutes.

Treasurer report: no changes. Accepted.

No new member applications. Beth Kennett received a donation from a business.

By-Laws

Confusion about what level of membership there is. Discussed at last couple meetings that membership would be at the farm level.

Voting item: Will a voting member represent the entire farm? Text should be: 'Article I. Section 1. (a) Class I-- Regular Voting Member who represents a Connecticut River Watershed farm from Vermont or New Hampshire.' Approved.

Note for future: BOD can appoint committees for any purpose, including an executive committee. Added a phrase to the by-laws that says BOD can appoint a nominating committee for elections to the BOD (Article V. Section 1). All voting for BOD seats are simple majority.

Grant Update

-Agency of Ag signed the agreements with the Districts with NRCC. Subagreements will be signed by mid-May. We can start now, as any work we do will be paid retroactively!

- Deliverables won't be as stringent as proposed

-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).

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

-Organizational Development, things to start focusing on:

-For entire board: start thinking of any trainings you'd like to attend (~\$4000 for trainings)! Grazing conferences, workshops, etc. Be available to help out with events this summer.

-For subcommittee: set up meetings to discuss financial procedures and procurement policy.

Other documents can wait until winter. What events do you want to host this year? Agronomy Plus with UVM Ext. is one thing to cohost. RAP workshops with WRNRCD is another option.

-Mileage reimbursements for additional meetings are available as well as small per diems if decided by the board.

Subcommittee: Paul Doton, Bill Emmons, Amy Richardson, Linda Corse

Action: Everyone should be keeping track of any and all hours they do for CRWFA outside of monthly board meetings! Marina will send out a spreadsheet to use. Ascutney Mt Audubon Society event on May 7th (possible outreach/tabling?). Someone can ask Mike. Subcommittee will develop a list of workshops that the members would find useful.

Follow up Reports

Cover Crop Survey: Steve Stocking-got acreage report from Eric Winchester (FSA). Only includes cover crops that are being paid for through a program. Carl-contracted cover crop is about 40% of all corn acres along NH side. Jed-suggests reports of cover crop acres from members.

-Go to seed distributors. Give them a simple postcard to give to those who buy corn, talking about benefits of cover crops and RAP guidelines. Mail out postcards in partnership with WRNRCD RAP Education/Outreach funding.

-SARE-Managing Cover Crops Profitably (online for free)

-Possible maps in the future: member farm locations with description, cover crop acres, buffers. What is the goal to have this done? Document continuous improvement?

Mary Russ-Director of White River Partnership

Started by Beth Kennett! Focused on the health of the White River and its watershed. They do a little bit of ag, but that's mostly left to the districts. Currently have 200 paying members.

WRP focuses on buffer plantings through their Trees for Streams program. Minimum planting width is 35'. Also is a contractor for CREP.

They also do River Corridor Easements. They've worked with 10 ag landowners through this. One time incentive payment.

They do a lot of water quality monitoring and education programs, which is something CRWFA could partner on.

Meetings Attended

WUV (Watershed United Vermont): Katherine-at the beginning, lawyers (Pat Parento was one) mentioned the thought of suing farmers surrounding water quality issues. Later on, group sessions and presentations were thorough and helpful. Heavy on the legal side of issues. Worthwhile to attend.

Local Work Group meeting with ONRCD: review of ranking questions for applications to NRCS. Looks at resource concerns within the district and initiated good conversation.

Townline Equipment Open House: Bill-about 2000 people attended. Will work with Matt and Drew
RAP Development Committee: Paul-discussion on the frequently flooded soil variance procedure.

Upcoming Dates

White River NRCD Local Work Group Meeting-May 2nd 9am

RAP Development Committee-May 2nd

State Technical Committee Meeting, Colchester NRCS office-May 24th 9:30am

Meeting adjourned at 12:20pm

Next meeting through email

Minutes taken by Marina Welch