PMNRCD Board Meeting Notes

May 20, 2026 – 3:30 PM

PMNRCD Zoom Number (https://zoom.us/j/9041299305)

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 3:38pm by Don Markie – we did not have a quorum

Present: Hilary Solomon, Don Markie, Katy Crumley, Olivia Carlson, Whitney Hier, Jennifer Alexander

Approve April meeting minutes: Unable to approve due to a lack of quorum.

Financial Summary:

Financial report: Hilary provided an update on the Q3 Profit and Loss.

Structural Integrity update: Hilary provided an update of ongoing work with Dave at SI. They have continued to work together on QBO and creating projects and creating classes from Grant Tasks.

Katy asked a question regarding Sales Tax. Ag exemption for nursery – talked about – it is not clear if we can use it but other Districts do. Do we need to pursue this? Different ways we can pay for this – there is some flexibility with the state.

Guest Speaker

N/A,

Partner Reports

Olivia Carlson (NRCS) – Olivia provided an update on the Local Fund Pool application process. Over 30 applications were received and a total of $723,817 was allocated. (PMNRCD has a total of $500, 000 available for supporting conservation efforts in the Rutland County local fund pool.) Of the 30 applications received, 15 were pre- approved. There is a 30-day period for all other farmers to update their eligibility. Olivia has a deadline to review the pre-approvals by 6/26. 7/10 – State Office Obligation. Applications for the NRCS DI local Fund Pool are due Tuesday May 26th 2026.

7/15/26: Olivia reported that the next meeting of the Vermont State Technical Committee, including the Soils Subcommittee will be on July 15th (9:30am -12:00pm) in Colchester (with a virtual attendance option also available via MS Teams). The soils subcommittee will focus on conservation priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities that address soil health. Discussion will include available technical and financial assistance programs, as well as opportunities to improve conservation practices related to soil health and associated natural resources.

Olivia also discussed the Vermont Pay for Performance Program (VAAFM), which is a program that provides performance based payments to farmers for reducing phosphorus losses from their land. Olivia advised that there is a potential for conflicts with NRCS and State contracts with this program.

Olivia Butterman (FSA) – Is on maternity leave – her baby boy was born on May 5th – lovely news 😊

Angie Allen (DEC) –

Katie Stiles (RNRCD) –

Brief Staff Reports – Brief Updates

Hilary- Hilary provided an update on the LCBP funded Wood Addition Training Project, which staff have been busy working on with Shayne Jaquith (TNC). There have been several meetings and progress is being made on phosphorus crediting.

Jennifer - has been busy going into the field, soil sampling. She has also been working with UVM and checking for seed corn maggots - a common early season pest that affects farms in Vermont. There are two study sites within our area. Jennifer also reported on two farms that are signed up for PFP. One of the farms is renting the no till drill. The second is at another farm so both are being used.

Whitney – Whitney reported that she has also been busy conducting site visits for soil sampling. Together with Andie, they are just finishing up the current Agricultural cohort which spans both Rutland and Bennington Counties with over 40 farms involved. Whitney also shared that there is a potential for a farm to school project which is very exciting.

Sadie - n/a

Averie – n/a

Jaden – n/a

Victoria – n/a

Old Business

CWSP update: New staff member Drew to join the Rutland RPC and work on the CWSP program.

NRCD legislative update: The budget for districts looks good – the largest ever, which was surprising.

NRCC/VACD meeting updates:

New Staff position – Accounting help: Hilary, Vicki and Sadie held an informal pre-interview meeting earlier in the month with a potential candidate (Jessica) who has just moved to the area – we will follow up with a more formal interview within the next few weeks. Staff will try and push the advert out more widely including sharing the job advert/description through social media including LinkedIn, Facebook and Front Porch Forum to try and get more traction.

Potential New Board Members: Waiting to hear back from potential board member Renee B White. Attempt to have the potential board members join the next board meeting.

New Business

FY27 District Budget Update (repeat new business) – this was reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.