

Coös County Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2018

Attendees: Haven Neal, John Scarinza, Bert vonDohrmann, Kelly Eggleston, Scott DeBlois, Mike Harrington, Steve Turaj, Kris vonDohrmann, Carolyn McQuiston
(excused: John Lanier, Joe Homer, Brendan Prusik)

Called to order: 5:00pm

November minutes - accepted

December meeting was cancelled due to winter storm.

Coös County Conservation District Funds

Financial Report – November 2017. Financial Report – December 2017. Kris motion to accept both, Bert 2nd, accepted.

Moose grant funds, received, started buying remaining supplies for next task. Grant ends April 2018. (discuss further under old business)

New Cooperators (3 sheets, 2 new, 1 old(new form)) Pass around sheets for review. County contact list has been updated and added to the new newsletter database.

NRCS Update – Kelly –

Has been helping Carolyn get orientated. Lync pass access has been a process.

Is acting DC in Grafton County, will be there on Wednesdays & Thursdays. Training two new employees in Grafton NRCS.

Rural Development has moved in across the hall.

Batching dates are coming up starting mid-January.

Discussed RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Equip projects in Pittsburg and Milan.

Office Activity: November – December

- Monitoring Reports – our easement monitoring reports are due. Met with Charlie Baylies, they have been completed, submitted to SPNHF online.
- NH Plant License permit, new application submitted, and just received.
- Federal Security for new employee is a process, hopefully will be completed soon.
- Web Soil Survey – one request for assistance processed.
- Demo project – 2016 final report was due end of Nov. Submitted a brief report with Kelly's help.
- Long Island Sound (LIS) - in-kind match report was due Dec 8, submitted. (4 Counties cooperating)
- CDEA meeting - Dec 6 was in Concord, in-person or via a go-to-meeting. I attended this meeting online.
- Continue to find files - desktop access, continued to organize files (grants, equipment rentals, financials, etc.), paper and electronic.
- NHACD Dues – yes they will accept \$100 in place of the annual \$500, they didn't realize we were not able to pay the full amount at this time. This \$100 has now been paid.

Discuss further under Old or New Business -

- North Country Ag, Forestry, Conservation e-Newsletter (discuss with new business)
- Bulb/Plant Sale - working on mailing lists for bulb/plant sales (email & paper). (info soon, see new business)
- Demo Grant 2018, conf call Jan 8. (discuss under new business)
- Moose Plate Grant - info updated (additional info in old business).

OLD BUSINESS

Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust Meeting – Nov 27, 2017, Kelly and Carolyn attended. They are in a mapping process. Prioritizing farmlands and forest lands; by size, soil types, and access. Their main area of interest is the Ammonoosuc water shed, however, will go further North if interest. Looking for suggestions of landowners who may be interested in Conservation easements. Looking for possible workshop ideas, locations. Pam and Jamie thought they might be able to do something in Grafton.

Coös County Public Budget Hearing – The 2018 Proposed Budget public hearing, December 11 at 10am in Stewartstown. Bert and Carolyn attended. Final Hearing is in Berlin, Saturday, March 10. Discussion who should attend. Prepare a few notes, include copy of the new partner newsletter, grants applied for, including the upcoming Demo projects applied for and the final report for Tillotson Grant.

Columbia Nursery – Sarah had inquired before she left if Essex CCD may be interested in the tool shed (for \$1000). Heather, Essex DA, is asking her board and will contact us. Heather called yesterday, they are offering \$500 and they need documentation that the shed was ours. She also mentioned they have some costly issues to solve, just wanted us to be aware... they will have to move the shed, but not far, to another property close by so can use a tractor to move it. They also have to do something with the willows, it sounded like they had not been cared for. The Board would like to ask for \$750.00. Carolyn will reach out to Heather and her Essex Board.

Moose Grant – I have spoken with Dea, Grant Administrator for clarity on documenting expenses, she had to submit an amendment to purchase a shed rather than move the old one. Since we need to send paid receipts/invoices, I have ordered Irrigation supplies, (Mike will store the pump until spring, other irrigation supplies are in the hall closet here at the office). We will need to order gate and shed soon so we can submit the next invoice (invoice #4). There is \$100 set aside for the gate, and \$600 for the shed, unless Essex comes through with purchasing the one in Bloomfield, then those funds could also be available. The final task for the final invoice (invoice #5) includes marketing, and placing Moose sign at the site.

Schedule a work day, to finish up fencing, planting and post Moose sign. Discussion, early May, weather permitting, to prepare for a tour and workshop at the end of the month. Schedule a nursery tour and Vernal Pool workshop? Discussion to set one up for late May. Possible presenters, Joe Homer, Brendan Prusik (& Emma, UNH Specialist), Kelly Boland, State Biologist for NRCS.

Tillotson Grant – need to submit final report ASAP on the spreader. We cannot apply for a new grant until the last one is closed out with the final report. The spreader has been used by John Amey, Chris Brady, Tim McGee, Mary Tichy, Brad White (Brad twice, spring and fall). As well a one demonstration by Jacob Brady last Spring. We've started a waiting list for Spring 2018. Carolyn will reach out to farmers that have used the spreader in hopes of obtaining comments and pictures for the final report. Be sure to get approximate acreage and tons of ash spread by farms when reporting.

High Tunnel Tools, Storage - suggestion to apply for a new grant, possibly with Tillotson Funds to purchase a trailer and tool shed for our small equipment. This would make the tools more visible and accessible, a sort of traveling display for workshops and the fair. Size of the trailer? Good size you want to be able to walk into it, John S suggested a used trailer. We will investigate.

Supervisors –

Terms – John Scarinza's renewal nomination form. Completed and sent to Linda Brownson, SCC, Jan 11, 2018.

Contact List – any updates? To be sure we can reach each other in case of snow, disaster, even good news! Add Haven's gmail address, all others ok.

Passumpsic Bank - account has been updated to include new DA.

Business Now Account – is what we have now - we must keep a daily balance of \$500 or more to earn interest and not be charged a service charge. In 2017 we were charged two months, service charge. We could switch to a - NON-Profit Account – this would be non-interest bearing, but we also would not be subject to service charges.

Discussion, yes, change to non-profit, non-interest bearing in order to no longer receive service charges.

Kris motion, John S 2nd, accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

Demo Agreement 2018 – Don Keirstead (state NRCS) has approved the 2 properties Kelly suggested in the Milan area. The project is moving forward, surveys have been done. This project is approximately \$20,000 means we need to have match. We can use time at the nursery, workshops, and possibly Carolyn's time on the new newsletter.

NHACD is still looking for projects to fund. Request should be submitted by Feb 15 if possible. It looks like some acceptable projects are the stream restoration projects NRCS is working with in Milan. (grant details passed out).

Discussion. John S. possible fish passage, pollinator projects for Randolph Forest, Kelly and John will discuss further. Discussion also of irrigation, pollinator workshops at the Randolph Forest. Steve mentioned Extension staff maybe willing to help out with these workshops.

Coös County (Ag, Forestry, Conservation) Newsletter – I approached UNH Cooperative Extension IT Manager, inquired if it would make sense to keep my UNH ID active and renew my salesforce license in order for us to keep the Coös County Ag newsletter going, by turning it into a joint newsletter.

This has been cleared by those involved from Extension, IT Manager, Director LaValley. To grow on the current Ag Updates, we hope to add more Forestry and Conservation news. If the Board approves, it is a go. I've talked with Kelly, and we may be able to use some of my time on the newsletter as match for some of the grant funds as well. All agreed this is a good fit. If anyone has content they want to include, please let Carolyn know, early each month.

NHACD President, Richard Mellor – email request for Supervisor participation. Forming committees. (see attached) 2nd request for supervisors to signup for committees received via email Jan 5. Discussion.

Spring Bulb/Plant sale, Grafton & Merrimack Counties are working on their bulb/plant sale information, we will follow their lead. We will include onion plants. Info should be available soon, for orders due in April, pickup early May.

Youth Conservation Day – I have inquired and confirmed date with the Joyce Brady, at CJEJ Farm, Wed, May 16.

State Nursery – FYI – NH State Nursery seedling orders due no later than March 31.

Barry Conservation 4-H Camp - 2018 rates, \$510 -five nights, \$315 -three nights (mini camp and JR-CO camp are both 3 nights). Online registration should open Feb 15, 2018. If we want to choose a camper, we need to save a spot by Feb 12, we need to submit gender and camp week preferred. Discussion, we will pay half. R. Amey has two youth he would like sponsored, he will most likely pay for one full scholarship, and CCCD & Fire Wardens Assoc. will each pay half for the 2nd camper. We will pay \$255.00. Bert motion, Haven 2nd, motion accepted.

Office Closures – Weather closures, USDA potential shut down.
District Administrator (DA) should not be in the USDA office during a shutdown. DA should work from an alternate site. DA should not be in the office if the USDA office is closed, work from alternate location unless directed differently by Coös County Sheriff or Human Resource Director.

CCCD Website – updating the webpage, we want to make more inviting and usable.
Facebook – try to keep current with news and events.

2018 Draft CCCD calendar attached for review, suggestions, edits.

Other Business.

Adjourned: 6:25pm, Haven motion, John S 2nd. Adjourned.