

WCNRCD Board Meeting  
February 8th 2023 6:30 PM Held at Geof's House and over Zoom

**Present:** Cory Ross; District Manager, Heather Blunk, Isabel Sullivan, Meg Kluge, Geof Dolman

**Zoom Participants:** Phyllicia Moore; NRCS Zone Conservationist, Linda Corse, Pieter van Loon,

- **NRCS update** from Phyllicia Moore:
  - Working on new applications. Getting everything together with the ranking deadline March 10th.
  - Gone through the local fund pool, Emma has contacted them and asked if they are interested in being ranked in the local fund pool. She is also updating eligibility. Kayla is still in training but helping with ranking. She is doing a good job working with Eric. Eric Winchester has been in office, Christine Lary is his supervisor. She is retiring at the end of month. She covers a lot of ground so they are all trying to work out coverage. NRCS is helping FSA through this process and get everyone in for ranking.
  - Phyllicia has the map for NWQI. She will get it to Cory ASAP
  - Wynea's last day is Friday, February 10th.
  - Local Fund pool, local work group. Resource concern list; NRCS is not supposed to send this out. She suggests having a survey ready for Meet the District. Make it google or Microsoft form, then export to spreadsheet or chart. June 3rd deadline opposed to August last time.
  - Local fund pool this year Heather Wineste missed some things so Phyllicia assisted with fixing those corrections. There was a National Glitch with ranking, hoping to solve that with Friday 10th.
  - Nothing solidified with office space movement.
  
- **SE Supervisory Union Meeting:**
  - Revitalization between boards and legislative council. Now looking to meet in April. Potential dates are April 5th at 10:30, 7th at 10:30, 10th at 10:30, 14th and 19th.
  
- **Quarterly financial reports**
  - Getting closer to bringing in what we budgeted for. Currently 4,000 in red, all because of unpaid invoices. This was until the end of December.
  - Still waiting on the American Farmland Trust. Long Island Sound Future Funds (LISFF) still waiting yet authorized to start work. If we tell LISFF it's a hardship for us then they can make it move faster.
  - Cash flow has been solved, paid all bills except one.
  - Cory is working on the unclassified line, he knows what is wrong and how to fix it. It is cash in lieu of benefits.
  - We have more money in outstanding invoices than we have.
  - Our payroll for a time period is net 4,500, taxes run 2,500. 12,000 a month.

- **Funding for Reservoir Greater Program**

- Difficult to get or keep funding. No one wants to contribute. State will contribute if there is a match, usually only 30%. We had Windham Foundation funding last year. Cory thinks we can run it pretty cheaply, 2,400. Application is March 3rd. Hoping State will match 2,400. Everyone agrees this is a good program, worthwhile. We should have 13,000 in the bank at the end of year. Should actually finish ~ 70,000. So we are able to front the \$2,400.

**Motion to commit \$2,400 with hope to get the state to match for the year, seconded and passed.**

- **Update on Climate Resilient Farming Workshop**

- Success

- **Corys Report**

- Sold out of lavender for the plant sale. Might try to order more. A little behind pace of sales last year. Not worried yet.
- Attended hitchhiker's guide to grants workshop and it was a great event.
- Covered bridge final design deadlocked. 2 v 2 support, best option is to hold off until March and hope someone is put on who likes us.
- Rain garden design is done, estimates are over what we estimated. Hoping this can become a partial project. Their board members were not okay with the parking proposal. Now we need to know if we can change the proposal. They will need to sign a 10 year agreement, yet they don't want to be on the hook if a hurricane comes in.
- Isabel and Cory have had meetings about **QAPP** with the **QAPP** support. Isabel is excited for it.
- The Watershed grant went in today. Excited for potential, \$3,500 all money spent on time that would allow us to leverage \$10,000 match from partners. This year we would do outreach and allow us to identify and map invasive watersheds. So next year we can apply for a removal grant.

- **Heather gave review Governor's Commission Report on Agriculture**

- **On Going**

- We are not pursuing a budget amendment.
- Cory goes to the state house next Wednesday to chat with 2 legislators.

- **MINUTES**

- When printing, put down time or version of minutes.

**Motion to accept minutes was moved, seconded and passed with correction**

- Fix Geof's name. Meg was at an in person interview.
- All minutes are being updated to NRCC drive.

**Next meeting is March 8th 6:30  
Daytime meeting April 12th 12:30 both at Geof's.**

**Meeting adjourned 8:30**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Blunk**