

## Windham County Natural Resource Conservation District Minutes

Tuesday, August 8, 6:30 pm

Geof's house, 301 Barrows Road, Brattleboro, VT

Present: Meg Kluge, Geoff Dolman, Linda Corse, Katie Morrison, Pieter van Loon: board supervisors;

Cory Ross: district manager; Heather Blunk: Agricultural Outreach Specialist; Isabel Sullivan: Conservation Specialist

### Survey Results:

-March/April - part of local working group process, to inform NRCS funding pool ranking

-Not a lot of responses from younger folks.

-Top priorities/concerns: streams and rivers, wildlife, rural forest health.

-Top assistance needed: trails, wildlife planting, cover crops.

#### *-NRCD Specific Feedback:*

-Grow plant sale, landowner outreach re: septic, food resiliency, engaging local teens.

-lots of different responses: find out what folks need, more interaction with public, add diversity, etc.

-How can we best serve you? Figure out best way to communicate our services, invasives, habitat management, edge management.

-Trends for services: food resiliency, climate migration, wildlife corridors, supporting young folks to get into the field.

-Green burial: is now legal; need more information.

-Long term goal: Do a strategic planning process/ look at where the district wants to be in five years.

### District Fundraising:

-Would be nice to look for fundraising streams not connected to grants or the legislature.

-Plant sale is great but is only 1x/year and a lot of work.

-Ideas:

-calendar (dogs on the farm)

-feast in the fields: farm to table dinner, upscale event,

-tshirts, water bottles, tote bags, hats, visors, etc. vistaprint.

-concert on the farm (Bee Well, ReBob Farm); concert on the green (Putney)

-partner with Retreat

-crepe night at Scott Farm, pizza night at Orchard Hill

-workshops

**Potential Workshop Topics:**

- green burials
- bat boxes - Pete Kerber, Dennis Hamilton might donate wood; Audobon might be good partner
- pollinator gardens and natives/ Kill Your Lawn - aimed at your average landowner
- mowing advice (for folks with fields that don't get hayed); connect to birds and butterfly migration. (possible resource: Kent Mcfarland)
- foraging workshops (mushrooms) - Petria (Petey) mitchell.
- innoculating logs - mushrooms.
- solar arrays?
- jumping worm workshop
- vermiculture

**Brochure:**

- Look for a quote to replace the current one.

**Upcoming Agenda Items:****Next Meeting:**

- Sept 12, 6:30 at Geoff's