

Minutes
NC RC&D Board of Directors Meeting-August 4, 2009
Pease Library – Plymouth, NH

Directors Present: Lisa Rixen, Bob Harrington, Jeff Hayes, John Hodsdon, Ben Hudson, Dan McLaughlin, Russ Dowd

Others Present: Rick DeMark, Rick Ellsmore, Ann Bowes

In the absence of the Chairman, Vice Chairman Lisa Rixen called the meeting to order at 5:10pm and introductions were made all around.

A power point presentation of the 2010 – 2014 Area Plan survey results was introduced and presented by Ann Bowes and Rick DeMark. The need for the next five year Area Plan was discussed. It was stated that the Board should incorporate the results of the survey into its new Area Plan and that a draft should be completed by October with a final plan by December. The Chairman called for volunteers to serve on a subcommittee to draft the Area Plan. There was discussion and clarification around the need for the Area Plan to use S.M.A.R.T. (specific, measureable, attainable, relevant, & timebound) goals, objectives and strategies in the plan. Volunteers to staff the subcommittee were Ben Hudson, Dan McLaughlin, Lisa Rixen and Rick and it was agreed that others could provide input via email. The sub-committee will meet prior to the next board meeting on September 8, 2009.

Rick Ellsmore provided an update on the federal budget process. There was discussion about the difference between the House and Senate versions of the RC&D budget authorizing legislation. The House version being the most beneficial to the RC&Ds. A McCain amendment would zero out funding for the RC&Ds, and that the senate version if passed, could jeopardize the mission of the RC&Ds. The conference committee would meet after Labor Day to take up the two versions of the budget bill.

There was discussion that the RCD funding allocation formula for NH was not equitable with other states. Rick Ellsmore said he would look into it.

There was brief discussion of the joint NH RC&D Executive committee meeting on July 16, 2009. It was explained that the purpose for holding the joint meeting was to accept additional funding from NRCS.

Jeff Hayes moved to accept the minutes of the Joint Executive Committee meeting of July 16, 2009 and the BOD meeting minutes of May 28, 2009. Second by Bob Harrington. Motion passed unanimously.

The need for a backup to the bookkeeper to sign checks was raised. Who would be the appropriate backup signer or signers was discussed. It was noted that the Board already has a policy and it was decided to review the policy before determining how many signers should be on the account. For now Lisa Rixen agreed to call Adam and arrange a meeting at the bank to get put on the signature card.

A new format for the financial statements and quarterly reports was presented – members were asked to review it and give feedback. It was stated that a financial committee meeting still needs to be scheduled, before the next board meeting. There was discussion that the “project costs” category was too general – and it was agreed that that amount would be distributed to specific items.

Lisa Rixen moved to accept the Financial report as presented with the new format. Second by Jeff Hayes. Motion passed unanimously.

The status of NC RC&D office space in Laconia was discussed. GSA has declared the building surplus and has scheduled an informational meeting on 8/5. The RC&D can submit a “statement of incompatibility” in the form of a letter by 8/5 to protest the move. Lisa Rixen moved to submit a letter to GSA. Second by Russ

Dowd. The motion passed unanimously. The Board approved submission of the letter and Dan will attend the 8/5 meeting. A proposal was made to look into possible office space in the Pemigawasset Ranger station in Holderness.

Rick handed out a proposal for the allocation of funds (\$36,000) for the Cooperative Agreement between both RC&D Councils and NRCS prepared by a sub-committee of north and southern members assisted by Rick DeMark and Holly Umphrey. A request was made to have Ann attend board meetings regularly to gain a better understanding what the North Country RC&D board is involved in doing. It was also suggested someone ask her if she could take minutes. Dan agreed to ask Ann to attend our regularly scheduled meetings. John Hodson moved to accept the proposal and Russ Dowd seconded it. Motion passed.

Rick DeMark discussed another Cooperative agreement with NRCS for a grazing land project, totaling \$15,000.00. Putting on pasture grazing workshops will be the main focus.

The Lakes Region Planning Commission will contribute \$12,000.00 as part of it's 319 Grant towards NCRC&D's role of the Lake Winnepesaukee project and \$6,500.00 will also come from the \$36,000.00 Cooperative Agreement from NRCS. Pat Tarpey is the RC&D staff person working on this project. The end goal is to develop a watershed management plan. Jeff Hayes made a motion to accept the project plan and sign the Agreement with LRPC. John Hodsdon seconded it. Vote passed.

Dan McLaughlin, Russ Dowd and Rick DeMark talked about their time at the national RC&D conference. Of particular interest to all three was a workshop on Enterprise Facilitation put on by Ernesto Sirolli of the Sirolli Institute. His entrepreneurial development concept would be one well suited for NH farmers and other small business owners. Russ mentioned the presentation he gave on district heating was well supported. He also informed members about a new program coming down the pike from USDA FSA called the Biomass Crop Assistance Program. More information can be found on the FSA website by clicking on Notice two. Rick felt this program could put a stress on NH forest resource if not administered well.

Rick reported that the New England Assoc of RC&D Areas Fall conference was coming up in October and asked who would be interested in attending. This will be discussed on Sept 8, 2009.

A schedule for the next three NCRC&D Directors meetings was made. Sept 8, October 20 and December 8 are the scheduled dates. Please add them to your calendar.

Lisa Rixen moved to adjourn the meeting and Jeff Hayes seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Bowes
Lisa Rixen