

Minutes
NC RC&D Board of Directors Meeting-November 5, 2009
US Forest Service HQ – Campton, NH

Directors Present: Dan McLaughlin, Bob Harrington, Russ Dowd, John Hodsdon, Joan Turley, Jeff Hayes, Nate Miller, Adam Tatem, Lisa Rixen

Others Present: Rick DeMark, NRCS; Ann Bowes, NCRCD Staff; Mike Lynch, NRCS; Ken Kettering, Belknap County CD; Lisa Morin, Belknap County CD

Call to Order:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:15pm. Introductions were made around the table.

Discussion of Shared Office Space with BCCD:

Belknap County Conservation District, currently sharing office space with NCRCD, requested NC RCD consider co-locating with BCCD when they move to new office space. She said that NRCS will not cover the cost of BCCD space unless it is co-located with RCD. Shared space must be in Belknap County. Lisa Morin handed out an outline of BCCD activities and draft duties for a shared Administrative Assistant. BCCD would be willing to fund or help fund a shared AA. BCCD also shares costs of internet service and shares programming opportunities. The Board discussed the pros and cons including having to remain in Belknap County when it might be more politically advantageous to move to a central location in the North Country. Rick DeMark pointed out that the current staff lives within a reasonable commute to Laconia and moving too far north could create a hardship for them. After much discussion of location Nate Miller moved the question, 2nd by Joan Turley. Moved to co-locate with BCCD in Belknap County and direct Rick DeMark to work out the details. Rick clarified that RCD communicates with NRCS who then communicates w/GSA and recommends that the Board request the option to approve the space. Ken Kettering suggested telling them what the needs are specifically. Rick reported that NRCS has certain base sq. footage and allowances for sq. footage and parking based on number of full time employees. The costs of the move would be funded by NRCS.

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 9/8/09 were reviewed and corrected to fill in a blank from a motion to appoint Lisa Rixen Acting Treasurer in the absence of Adam Tatem, to show that it was seconded by Russ Dowd. Bob Harrington moved to accept the corrected minutes, seconded by Lisa Rixen. The motion was passed unanimously.

NE RCD Assoc. Fall Conference Report:

Bob reported that the Conference was one of the best he has ever attended. The subject matter of Local Food was timely and generated much interest and the presenters were excellent.

Russ Dowd reported that NH does not have a food science program. He learned in the Processing seminar that NH shares a commercial kitchen with ME. Lisa Rixen reported that the NE Assoc. emphasized the Circle of Diamonds award and since the 2010 federal

budget has a provision whereby further funding can depend upon whether a council is deemed “meritorious”, the Assoc is lobbying the Feds to use the same Circle of Diamonds criteria when they make that determination. 4 of the 16 NE Councils have earned Circle of Diamonds; others are resisting having to go through the process. Lisa noted that the Secretary of Agriculture pointed out Ag Dept priority areas which are directly in line with the RCD mission and it appears that current Ag policy supports RCD’s.

Financial:

The balance sheet was not included with the financial report; therefore no financial report was made. The members discussed expectations for the bookkeeper and decided to provide her with a checklist of required items and to review performance in April. Lisa Rixen moved that the Treasurer request from the Bookkeeper: a General Ledger report for all of 2009 by next meeting and then bi-annually each 6/30 and 12/30; balance sheet and profit and loss statement each month, to be reviewed by the Treasurer one week prior to each meeting, and the Treasurer will give the Bookkeeper a checklist of documents required. 2nd by Russ Dowd, motion passed with one abstention by Adam Tatem, Treasurer. The Chairman asked the Treasurer to notify Lisa Rixen when he will not be available to review the monthly financial reports from the Bookkeeper.

Rick DeMark reported National RC&D dues are due 1/31/10 and should be included in the 2010 operating budget. Beehive Insurance liability policy is up for renewal. Options are \$810/annual fee for \$1 million combined or \$930/annual fee for \$2 million split policy. Joan Turley moved to keep the \$1million, 2nd by Lisa Rixen. Motion passed unanimously.

Area Plan Progress Report:

The group reviewed the draft Goals/Objectives/Strategies for the five year Area Plan. It was decided that Rick DeMark would email the list to the members for review and comment before the next meeting.

Annual Meeting:

The Chairman asked members to think about how to make the annual meeting a great outreach event. Joan Turley said to spend \$. Further discussion was postponed until next meeting.

Other Business:

Rick DeMark reported:

Heart of Maine has asked for support for NE SARE, Hybrid Farmer Ed program.

The NC RCD has been invited to participate in the 11/14 Coos CCD meeting to chart the future of NH Assoc. of CCD’s.

The Council is about to issue an RFP for the Roadmap for District Heating.

The Council is about to enter into an agreement with Plymouth State for a graduate assistant.

Upcoming meetings of interest: 11/9 White Mountain CC policy discussion on energy.

11/15 White Mountain CC discussion on the economic status of women in NH.

Russ Dowd reported the Carroll County Farm Bureau annual meeting was a good meeting and they are helping look for new NCRC&D members in Carroll County.

The next meeting was scheduled for 12/8/09.

Nate Miller moved to adjourn, 2nd by Joan Turley, passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.