

# SNHRC&D

## SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA

Cheshire Hillsborough Merrimack Rockingham Strafford Sullivan

*Meeting of the Board of Directors  
March 20, 2009  
The Concord Center, Concord, NH*

*Board Members Present: Webb Palmer, Chair; Bob Spoerl, Vice Chair; Jim Moore, Secretary; Bud Winsor, Treasurer; Edwin Robinson, Kerrie Diers.*

*SNRC&D Staff: Hollie Umphrey, RC&D Coordinator, Ann Bowes, Admin. Assistant*

*USDA-NRCS: Rick Ellsmore, Asst. State Conservationist-Operations*

*Guests: Stacy Luke, MCCD; Julia Steed Mawson, UNH Coop. Extension; Susan Bartlett, ESL/Literacy & Refugees Community; Teena Hayden, International Institute of N.H.; and Bob Bernstein, Land for Good.*

*Chairman Webb Palmer opened the meeting at 12:15 and introduced Rick Ellsmore, who gave an update of NRCS-RC&D interests. (1) Stimulus funds available for a weeks' time for Emergency Flood Plain Easement. (2) Potential additional funds are available and are being applied for in requests for renewable energy support. (3) Administrative help has been approved for the New Hampshire RC&D offices pending clarification of funding. (4) An intern is to be assigned for one day per week to the NH RC&D offices. (5) The NRCS budget appears to be good for the rest of the year, with the Farm Bill total of \$9.8 million for New Hampshire.*

*Hollie Umphrey noted that the Federal Budget for 2010 has zero dollars for NRCS support of RC&D, but with \$131,166 for RC&D in the Federal budget.*

*Bud Winsor reported that as of 1/31 the beginning balance was \$1,030.0, and after the month's payments the ending balance was \$343.80, with an obligation of \$5.00. There was no report submitted because the Council's computer has been down and Ann was reconnecting it.*

*Jim Moore submitted the Secretary's minutes for the meetings of January 5, 2009 and February 13, 2009 and the board voted unanimously to accept them.*

*All in attendance at the meeting introduced themselves. Hollie Umphrey discussed the status of the current SNHRC&D effort. The CIG draft has been reviewed and is awaiting funding announcement. Tech innovation grants are available up to \$75,000. Word on conservation and wildlife is due shortly. Hollie will e-mail the board members the announcement information when it becomes available.*

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*Teena Hayden and Julia Steed Mawson on the Community Garden Project: Teena announced an article about the project appeared in the Union Leader on 3/10/09 and the next meeting of the coalition is scheduled for Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at the Massabesic Audubon Center. The topic is structuring the coalition network - proposing that the RC&D be the hub. Teena then turned the discussion over to Julie, who spoke about the concept of community gardens as striving to be inclusive and collaborative. She outlined the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting format and agenda as consisting of information gathering, prioritizing of goals and planning, and spoke about the idea of locating community gardens on State land with access to public transportation . Some of the problems with existing gardens are security, lighting, shade, water and restrooms. Some of the goals are to create a database of community gardens, find available land, save institutional memory, and address economic and liability issues. UNH Cooperative Extension is building a website.*

*Teena and Hollie will be meeting with Ralph Jiminez of NHTI in Concord regarding possible land on the campus for a community garden. Bob Bernstein of Land for Good stated that he has lease (legal) information he will share with members.*

*Stacy Luke spoke on finalizing a grant proposal to provide 25 energy audits to farms and create demonstration sites to investigate different methods of generating energy and reducing energy cost to diverse farms. The effort would be a collaboration between the Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture, the conservation districts and the RC&D's.*

*It was moved and seconded by Jim Moore and Edwin Robinson that the SNHRC&D be fiscal agent for audits under the grant, and will submit a letter of commitment for the grant. The Board was advised that Loudon has established an Agricultural Commission and that council seats on the Board are open for Rockingham and Merrimack.*

*There will be a working luncheon board meeting on Friday, April 24, 2009 from 12-2PM in the second floor conference room in the Concord Center.*

*Chairman Webb Palmer adjourned the meeting at 2:05 PM*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Secretary, SNHRC&D*