

State Conservation Committee

PO Box 2042 • Concord NH 03302-2042

February 19, 2015 • Meeting Summary

NH Department of Environmental Services, Concord, NH

Members/designees/advisors present:

Dea Brickner-Wood, Moose Plate
Grant Coordinator
Linda Brownson, Coos and Grafton
CCDs
Rich Cook, NH Fish and Game
Department
Rick Ellsmore, Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Jennifer Gornert, NH Department of
Agriculture, Markets & Food
Roger Noonan, NH Association of
Conservation Districts
John Parker, Hillsborough and
Merrimack CCDs
Lori Sommer, NH Department of
Environmental Services
Sabrina Stanwood, Department of
Resources and
Economic Development
Peter Throop, Cheshire and Sullivan
CCDs

Member/designees/advisors absent:

Nik Coates, NH Association of
Conservation Commissions
Amanda Littleton, CDEA-NH
Jay Phinizy, Farm Service Agency
Jim Raynes, Rockingham and Strafford
CCDs
Amanda Stone, UNH Cooperative
Extension
Jon Wraith, University of NH
Agricultural Experiment Station
Vacant, Belknap and Carroll
CCDs

Minutes Recorder:

Stacy Luke, Merrimack CCD

Guests:

Gail McWilliam Jellie, NH Department
of Agriculture, Markets & Food

Linda Brownson, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:17 am and welcomed everyone.

Consent Agenda

Throop motioned to adopt a consent agenda including the minutes. Parker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Districts, agencies, and organizations discussed the highlights of items on the Consent Agenda.

- Cook discussed two controversial issues for NH Fish & Game: banning chocolate for baiting bears and a trapping season for bobcats.
- Gornert discussed the Agricultural Nutrient Management grant that has new deadlines to better suit the needs for applicants. Grant applications have to address a water quality issue. SB 61 proposes funding the state agricultural lands program, which has not been funded since 1991.

- Noonan discussed bills he is tracking such as a ban on drones and HB 349 related to buffers. Noonan also discussed the funded NRCS RCPP project for the Long Island Sound and the possibility of NHACD submitting a RCPP proposal for a type of Master Farmer program.
- Parker highlighted the NH Gleans program that Hillsborough and Merrimack County participate in, Hillsborough CCD's annual meeting, and discussion about a pipeline that would go through Merrimack, Ringe, Milford, & Fitwilliam.
- Ellsmore discussed the RCPP program, the loss of two staff that will not be replaced (Jeremy Lougee and Alena Warren), the continuation of sequestration, the moving of the State Office to Dover, updates to the CSP program, and ranking subcategories to ensure fairness.
- Brownson reported that Coos CCD's District Manager Julie is on medical leave and they are working on a new website coosconservation.org. Grafton CCD is undergoing a reassessment; will hold a LWG meeting at Windy Ridge Orchard in May, and reassessing their Barry Conservation Camp scholarship. Brownson commended District Manager Pam Gilbert for helping facilitate this healthy reassessment process.
- Throop reported that Cheshire CCD had two "standout" Agland Conservation workshops as part of a SARE grant. Sullivan CCD is working on a demo high tunnel, pollinator project, school weather station, and stream table. Throop reviewed the Town of Peterborough's draft ordinance for agri-tourism.
- Luke reported that Earle Chase is the new Belknap/ Carroll CCD representative and regrets that he could not come to today's meeting due to school cancellations this morning.

Conservation "Moose Plate" Grant Program Coordinator's Update

Brickner-Wood gave her coordinator's report. She has been working on new templates for invoices and for recording matching funds. Amanda Littleton has been Brickner-Wood's "guinea pig" through the process. Marketing continues to occur at the close of each project with information/ photographs going on the website. 2012 is completely closed out and one extension has gone smoothly. Hillsborough CCD's Mooseplate grant was reduced by half. District Manager Kerry Rickrode has proposed a new budget and Brickner-Wood would like permission to email the Mooseplate Committee with the newly proposed budget for approval.

Sommer motioned to allow the Mooseplate Grant Committee to make the final decision on Hillsborough CCD's Mooseplate Grant budget. Gornnert seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Brickner-Wood will circulate the proposal.

Stanwood reported on the Mooseplate Marketing Committee. They are working on a flyer, rack card, and presence at upcoming conservation events. Their contract is up for renewal and will be working on a two year extension with Governor & Council.

Brickner-Wood also stated that the grant subcommittee will meet on April 2nd.

State Conservation Committee Website Re-Design

Gail McWilliam Jellie presented the new Department of Agriculture, Markets, & Food website and discussed the possibility of moving the SCC webpages onto the new DAMF website. Other committees, such as the Veterinarian Committee, are in the process of moving to the website. This would be an improvement as the current SCC website is not flexible. Advantages to the update is that McWilliam Jellie can update the website, photographs can be incorporated on the website, the SCC will be assigned an IT person to walk the SCC through the system, and that the SCC can have a Contacts page. Brickner-Wood volunteered to provide content for the grant program. Noonan volunteered to provide updated content.

Sommers motioned to move the SCC's website to the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, & Food website. Stanwood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Supervisor appointments, reappointments, and filling unexpired terms

None at this time.

Disposition of State Lands

None at this time.

Conservation Delivery System of the Future

Brownson distributed the document Conservation Delivery System of the Future discussing the future of the Conservation Districts and their needs. This report was brought about by issues seen through the RCPP process. Noonan, head of the RCPP Task Force, stated that some of the concerns are that the organization is old, the members are old, and the thought process and partnerships are stagnant. Some changes discussed were supervisor term limits, bringing on new and engaged supervisors, and retaining/ attracting high quality employees. Grant writing needs for Districts were also discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

The next meeting will be held on May 21, 2014, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the conference room at NH Department of Environmental Services, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.