

State Conservation Committee

PO Box 2042 • Concord NH 03302-2042

May 19, 2016 • Meeting Summary

NH Department of Environmental Services, Concord, NH

Members/designees/advisors present:

Carol Andrews, NH Association of Conservation Commissions
Dea Brickner-Wood, Moose Plate Grant Coordinator
Linda Brownson, Coos and Grafton CCDs & NH Association of Conservation Districts
Rich Cook, NH Fish and Game Department
Bob Goodrich, Rockingham and Strafford CCDs
Jennifer Gornnert, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food
Ted Howard, University of NH Agricultural Experiment Station
Jack Parker, Hillsborough and Merrimack CCDs
Sabrina Stanwood, Department of Resources and Economic Development
Lori Sommer, NH Department of

Environmental Services
Amanda Stone, UNH Cooperative Extension

Peter Throop, Cheshire and Sullivan CCDs

Member/designees/advisors absent:

Earle Chase, Belknap and Carroll CCDs
Bruce Cilley, Farm Service Agency
Rick Ellsmore, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Amanda Littleton, CDEA-NH

Guests:

Irma Goodrich
Leonard Lord, Rockingham CCD
Lisa Morin, Belknap CCD

Minutes Recorder:

Stacy Luke, Merrimack CCD

Linda Brownson, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:05 am and welcomed everyone.

Consent Agenda

Parker motioned to adopt a consent agenda including the minutes as amended. Howard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

- Throop reported that Cheshire CCD has been very busy. Cheshire CCD had a successful field day in April, is working on an interseeder demonstration project, is adding new skidder bridges and selling older bridges, and is actively working on the Falls Brook culvert removal.
- Cook informed the SCC that Glenn Normandeau has been re-appointed, NH Fish & Game's conservation officers will be the focus of a reality television series, Fish &

Game's Discover Wild NH had over 9,000 people attend, and the moose project continues up north showing approximately 75% calf mortality.

- Stanwood announced Ken Desmarais retired. There will be a climate change symposium. NHB has a new agreement with NRCS on data checks with a plant identification training. Stanwood also reported on the Mooseplate Marketing Committee.
- Andrews reported that NHACC is proceeding in its search for a new Executive Director and are undergoing the final interviews. The annual meeting will be on November 12th. Tom Wessels will be the keynote speaker.
- Gornnert reported that the two vacant inspection positions are filled. David Rousseau received funding to hire someone to create a state pollinator plan. DAMF is applying for a FDA grant to help plan for FSMA. Gornnert asked for feedback related to the ANM grant due to the large amounts of extension requests. Should the ANM grants receive a full year to implement the project? Should there be just one deadline per year with more money available? Please send Gornnert any feedback.
- Howard reported that the university has had some retirements as well as actively seeking new personnel. Positions include a plant pathologist, microbial ecologist, small livestock management, and marine fisheries. Howard also reported that the Thompson School is repositioning itself to focus on land, food, and animals.
- Morin reported that Belknap CCD has lost \$17,000 in county funding over the last two years. These decreases have prevented Belknap CCD from hiring specialists to help prepare grants or provide technical assistance to landowners. Belknap CCD is preparing their 2017 grant request to the county and is currently working on a strategic plan. John Hodsdon has stepped down as chair and Donna Hepp is the new chair. Belknap CCD is actively working with the Lakes Region Food Network.
- Stone reported that Saving special Places had 300 people signed up. UNH Cooperative Extension has had some retirements, including Jon Nute, Sarah Smith, Mike Sciarbarassi, and Margaret Hagan. Funding was restored to the Belknap County office.

Conservation “Moose Plate” Grant Program Coordinator’s Update

Brickner-Wood gave her coordinator’s report including:

- Moose Plate outreach at the recent Saving Special Places;
- Moose plate sales are up with a renewed push to engage with town clerks;
- Possible collaboration with the Fisher Cats;
- New metal Mooseplate signs and new marketing materials;
- and the 2016 grants are moving along.

Brickner-Wood also presented the changes to the Mooseplate application. These changes include the tasks returning to the narrative section and removed from the budget, an added section “10. Overall Project Goal,” and the budget information for land conservation projects are clearer and broken out.

Sommer motioned to adopt the 2017 Mooseplate Application. Stanwood seconded the motion. The motion carried

Elections

Throop motioned to re-elect Linda Brownson as Chair of the State Conservation Committee. Parker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Goodrich motioned to re-elect Jack Parker as Vice Chair of the State Conservation Committee. Throop seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Throop motioned to re-elect Lorraine Merrill as Treasurer of the State Conservation Committee. Sommer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Disposition of State Lands

The SCC reviewed State Owned Land, Surplus Land Review, Town of Epping, NH SLR 16-003. Throop stated that the plan is not detailed and, as is, would not approve this proposal. Currently, it takes up a buffer and degrades the quality of the trail. Cook stated this proposal was not received well at the recent CORD meeting and it will come back to CORD in two months. Brownson stated that the SCC should get its comments in soon. Throop stated he would work on a draft. Sommer stated that she would look at whether this is protected under a wetland mitigation and send that information to Throop.

Andrews motioned to provide comments from the SCC to CORD. Goodrich seconded the motion. The motion carried.

SCC Website Update

Brownson reviewed the new website with the SCC as well as the new State Conservation Committee email that has been set-up. SCC members made suggestions and corrections including:

- Throop suggested a written statement about what is the most important thing the SCC does;
- Brickner-Wood suggested a news and events section;
- Throop suggested a link to return back to the “Home” screen;
- Stanwood asked if the Facebook and Twitter links for the Mooseplate program could be added to the site;
- Stone suggested switching the minute’s section so the most recent minutes are first;
- and to add the upcoming meeting dates and location.

Brickner-Wood will update the Mooseplate section and will be adding a section for grantee documents and the Mooseplate marketing flyer.

District MOU

Leonard Lord distributed and discussed the Cross-District MOU that has been reviewed by the Attorney General’s office. The AG’s office stated that the SCC is not an appropriate signatory for this MOU but will be courtesy copied to the SCC within 30 days. The SCC thanked Lord for all of his hard work on this document.

RCPP Long Island Sound Plan

Brownson discussed an important opportunity that New Hampshire has in relation to the Long Island Sound RCPP program. This project is looking for and has money earmarked for New Hampshire as long as matching funds can be found. Project in the Long Island Sound watershed that would be considered are ones related to nutrient management planning and soil health. Brownson asked partners to help her and NHACD in putting together a grant proposal to obtain funds to assist producers along the Connecticut River Valley.

State Conservation Committee Financial Audit Forms

Brownson discussed the financial audit form that few Districts return to the SCC. Stanwood asked how this form helps the SCC in helping the Districts. Luke stated that she forwards along Merrimack CCD's annual financial review done by a CPA instead of the SCC form as filling out the form is duplicative and she feels the form is incomplete because it only asks for expenses and not revenues. Andrews stated that this form had been discussed in the past and the SCC should be careful to not ask the Districts for information unless there is a specific cause for it. Throop asked if completing this form was required by the RSA.

Consensus was to discuss this form at a future meeting.

Supervisor appointments, re-appointments, and filling unexpired terms

Parker presented the appointment for Hillsborough County by reading a brief description of the nominated supervisor.

A nomination for appointment was submitted for Ian McSweeney, Hillsborough County Conservation District.

Parker motioned to approve the above nomination. Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried with one abstention.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

The next meeting will be held on August 18, 2016, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the conference room at NH Department of Environmental Services, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.