



## State Conservation Committee

PO Box 2042 • Concord NH 03302-2042

February 18, 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

Earle Chase, Belknap and Carroll  
CCDs

Rich Cook, NH Fish and Game  
Department

Rick Ellsmore, Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Bob Goodrich, Rockingham and  
Strafford CCDs

Lorraine Merrill, NH Department of  
Agriculture, Markets & Food

John Parker, Hillsborough and  
Merrimack CCDs

Lori Sommer, NH Department of  
Environmental Services

Sabrina Stanwood, Department of  
Resources and  
Economic Development

Amanda Stone, UNH Cooperative  
Extension

Peter Throop, Cheshire and Sullivan  
CCDs

### **Member/designees/advisors absent:**

Amanda Littleton, CDEA-NH

Linda Grames, Farm Service Agency

Jon Wraith, University of NH

Agricultural Experiment Station

### **Minutes Recorder:**

Stacy Luke, Merrimack CCD

### **Guests:**

Leonard Lord, Rockingham CCD

Linda Brownson, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:08 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.

- Lord reported on Rockingham CCD. Rockingham CCD opted not to ask for the formerly full amount received from Rockingham County back but did get an increase of \$10,000.

Rockingham CCD is working on a RCPP grant in collaboration with the Nature Conservancy, working on New England Cottontail habitat, three new grants working in Odiorne State Park, and working on their fourth year of WRP restoration projects. Employees from both Rockingham and Strafford CCDs are working on becoming NRCS Nutrient Management Planners.

- Stanwood reported on the improvements on the NHB database. Stanwood also passed out the new BMP for Erosion Control on Timber Harvesting Operations.
- Sommer discussed the DES rulemaking effort and details about the Aquatic Resource Mitigation funds and their upcoming grant round.
- Andrews stated she will be the acting executive director of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions and asked to help identify good candidates for the position.
- Stone updated the SCC on the upcoming Saving Special Places.
- Cook highlighted the proposed bobcat season and new funds available for moose research.
- Brownson discussed Coos CCD's geoengineering for stream bank restoration with NRCS, cover-cropping, and interseeding projects. Grafton CCD is working on a cover-cropping demonstration at the Grafton County Farm and will have its annual meeting in May.
- Ellsmore reviewed the RCPP grants, including a culvert replacement project through Trout Unlimited on the Beebe River and WMI's young forest project
- 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 leadership positions have been filled: Don Keirstead is the State Resource Conservationist and Matt Brown is the State Engineer. Ed Hanslik, engineer, will be retiring the end of February.
- Chase informed the SCC that Belknap CCD is struggling with their budget. Belknap CCD is also undergoing strategic planning. Carroll CCD is also struggling with its budget and is undergoing a process of generating a Saco River Conference.

Sommer motioned to write a letter to the Belknap County delegation to support the full funding of the Belknap County Conservation District. Stanwood seconded the motion. The motion carried with Stone abstaining.

### **Conservation "Moose Plate" Grant Program Coordinator's Update**

Brickner-Wood discussed the work of the marketing committee, the table at the Green Eggs & Ham breakfast, and new grant signs made of metal. Brickner-Wood also informed the SCC that Trout Unlimited withdrew their 2014 grant. The Nature Conservancy has asked for a December deadline instead of an April deadline; the SCC agreed to this request. Brickner-Wood also stated that the grant review committee is meeting in April to go over the application. The committee's suggestions will be brought to the whole SCC at the May meeting for approval.

## **Cross-District Collaboration MOUs**

Lord passed out a copy and reviewed the Cross-District Collaboration MOU that was reviewed by the Assistant Attorney General Christopher Aslin, who wrote a limited response. Lord requested a letter from the SCC in support of the MOU.

Cook asked if the SCC should be a signatory to these agreements. The SCC discussed an additional line for SCC signatory. Merrill stated that Cooperative Extension shares between counties and this has been beneficial; Districts work similarly to meet the needs of their constituents. It is essential to share and collaborate. Merrill asked if the language could be fleshed out more stating agriculture more boldly.

Lord stated that the MOU will have to go to each conservation district board.

Sommer motioned to approve the Cross-District Collaboration MOU and send it to the Attorney General. Throop seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **State Conservation Committee Website Re-Design**

Brownson reported on the website re-design. There will be a kick-off meeting next week.

## **State Conservation Committee Grant Writing Workshop Update**

Brownson and Brickner-Wood updated the SCC on the upcoming grant writing workshop with Brickner-Wood, Don Keirstead, and PSU Reference Librarian Gary McCool presenting.

## **Districts' Roles in Responding to Right-to-Know Requests**

Brownson reported on Districts' recurring Right-to-Know requests from companies such as SmartProcure and others. The Attorney General's office does not provide counsel for individual districts. Cook stated that the RSA does state that the SCC provides assistance.

Goodrich motioned that the SCC ask the Attorney General's office for a consult on Right to Know requests. Throop seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Throop suggested a presentation by the Attorney General's office and ask the conservation districts' managers to attend. Goodrich added that the AG's response be in writing, too.

## **Supervisor appointments, reappointments, and filling unexpired terms**

Throop presented each re-appointment for Sullivan County Conservation District by reading a brief description of each supervisor.

A nomination for reappointment was submitted for David Grobe, Sullivan County Conservation District.

A nomination for reappointment was submitted for John Luther, Sullivan County Conservation District.

A nomination for reappointment was submitted for Duncan McCutchan, Sullivan County Conservation District.

A nomination for reappointment was submitted for Robert Porter, Sullivan County Conservation District.

A nomination for reappointment was submitted for Cornelia Sargent, Sullivan County Conservation District.

### **Adjournment**

Goodrich motioned to adjourn the meeting. Parker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

**The next meeting will be held on May 19, 2016, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the conference room at NH Department of Environmental Services, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.**