

# State Conservation Committee

PO Box 2042 • Concord NH 03302-2042

November 17, 2016 • 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 & NH Association of  
Conservation Districts  
Rich Cook, NH Fish and Game  
Department  
Rick Ellsmore, USDA Natural  
Resources Conservation Service  
Jennifer Gornnert, NH Department of  
Agriculture, Markets & Food  
Marilyn Milne, Farm Service Agency  
Jack Parker, Hillsborough and  
Merrimack CCDs  
Barbara Richter, NH Association of  
Conservation Commissions  
Lori Sommer, NH Department of  
Environmental Services

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

Earle Chase, Belknap and Carroll  
CCDs  
Bob Goodrich, Rockingham and  
Strafford CCDs  
Ted Howard, University of NH  
Agricultural Experiment Station  
Amanda Littleton, CDEA-NH  
Sabrina Stanwood, Department of  
Resources and  
Economic Development  
Amanda Stone, UNH Cooperative  
Extension  
Peter Throop, Cheshire and Sullivan  
CCDs

## **Guests:**

Lisa Morin, Belknap CCD

## **Minutes Recorder:**

Stacy Luke, Merrimack CCD

Linda Brownson, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:08 am and welcomed everyone.

## **Consent Agenda**

Cook motioned to adopt a consent agenda including the August 2016 meeting minutes. Sommer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Districts, agencies, and organizations added the following information not included in the Consent Agenda agency reports.

- Gornnert stated the invasive species list has been updated and distributed the new list to the Committee. Gornnert stated there were six open positions at Department of Agriculture, Markets, & Food and to have interested candidates contact her.
- Cook reported that his year's hunting season is more active than last. Many very large bucks were taken this year including 862 turkeys (archery season is still open), a 72% success rate for moose including 45 bulls and seven cows, and a record year for bear. NRCS with the important partnership with NRCS on the New England Cottontail program.

- Richter reported on the NHACC Annual Meeting, a successful potluck with Cheshire CCD, action on the statewide conservation plan committee, and a small grant that connects towns with schools for conservation activities.
- Ellsmore reported a continuing resolution continues until December 9<sup>th</sup> and will probably be extended until March, the budget looks good this year but not so much in the following year, that there is a 50% decrease in easement funding, and that NRCS will be working on a special fund for drought assistance.
- Milne reported that the State Executive Director is transitioning out of the position, farmers are still signing up for drought assistance, and discussed the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is not very active in NH and more outreach may help increase sign-ups. Milne distributed information sheets to the Committee.
- Brownson reported that Coos CCD's manager Sarah Brady is the program coordinator for NHACD's RCPP program. Coos CCD has received a grant from the Tillotson Fund, their plant nursery project is going well, and they took part in the North Country Fruit & Vegetable Conference. Grafton CCD is involved in many cover crop projects, held an equipment workshop, and is working on a restoration site in Lisbon. Brownson also reported on NHACD activities including Envirothon, a CIG Grant for Soil Health, and fine-tuning an agronomist position description as part of their RCPP project.
- Sommer reported that DES is working on re-organizing the Water Division, which may include combining subsurface, AoT, wetlands, and shoreland. Cross-training is currently undergoing. Commissioner Burack has resigned. The ARM fund is celebrating its tenth anniversary and a booklet of success stories is in the process of being created.
- Morin reported on Belknap CCD. Supervisors are taking on more responsibility, their budget has been submitted to the county, they held a Conservation Client Gateway workshop and a Winter Construction workshop and have brought on a new associate supervisor.
- Parker reported on Merrimack CCD's workshops, rentable equipment, SNAP/ EBT programs, gleanings program, and cover crop field day. Parker reported on Hillsborough CCD's erosion control field day, farm bill outreach meeting, urban conservation grant, and their outreach at the Hillsborough County Fair.

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

Brickner-Wood gave her coordinator's report. The report included Brickner-Wood's attendance at a legislative meeting for the License Plate Advisory Committee and the grant review process. Brownson commended Brickner-Wood on the process. Town applications were discussed and Richter requested feedback as to how the town applications could be strengthened. Brickner-Wood stated the subcommittee will have a spring meeting to discuss the program. Brickner-Wood also stated that a PDF Fillable program would be desirable to help create better grant documents.

### **Review Moose Plate Grant Sub-Committee 2017 Grant Recommendations**

The Grant Review Committee of the NH State Conservation Committee met on November 10, 2016 and completed its review of twenty-seven (27) submitted grant applications for the FY2017 grant round. The total request for grant funds was \$494,715. The SCC has a total of up to \$290,000 available for grant funding. The Grant Review Committee unanimously recommends to the State Conservation Committee to

obligate a total of \$289,379 in SCC Conservation License Plate Grant funds to the eighteen (18) applications listed below.

1. **Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, \$20,000, *Deuik Conservation Easement***
2. **Belknap County Conservation District, \$10,000, *Poorfarm Brook Restoration Strategy, Wetlands Walk Repair and Public Involvement***
3. **Fracestown Land Trust, \$19,000, *Collins Brook Headwaters***
4. **Great Bay Stewards, \$24,000, *Restoring the Bellamy River: Sawyer Mill Dams Removal Project***
5. **Hillsborough County Conservation District, \$20,915, *Implementing No-Till Farming in Hillsborough County***
6. **Merrimack County Conservation District, \$10,750, *Merrimack County Skidder Bridge Initiative***
7. **Milford Conservation Commission, Town of, \$7,500, *Mile Slip Town Forest Conservation Easement, Milford***
8. **Monadnock Conservancy, \$20,000, *Bearce Conservation Easement, Jaffrey & Rindge***
9. **Monadnock Conservancy, \$15,000, *Sip Pond / Chamberlain***
10. **Rockingham County Conservation District, \$7,064, *Odiorne Point State Park North Fields Partnership Project***
11. **Society for the Protection of NH Forests – 1, \$20,000, *Powder Major Farm Easement***  
The goal of this project is to purchase a conservation easement on 32 acres of important agricultural land
12. **Society for the Protection of NH Forests -2, \$20,000, *Sullivan Farm Conservation Easement***
13. **Southeast Land Trust of NH – 1, \$10,000, *North Branch River Conservation Easement***
14. **Southeast Land Trust of NH - 2, \$20,000, *Stonehouse Forest***
15. **Strafford County Conservation District, \$12,000, *Biomass Plantings for Wildlife and Biomass Production on Agricultural Lands***
16. **The Trust for Public Land, \$20,000, *Page Pond Community Forest***
17. **Upper Valley Land Trust – 1, \$20,000, *Blackmount Farm***
18. **Upper Valley Land Trust – 2, \$13,150, *Smith Pond - Baker***

Sommer motioned to accept the Grant Sub-Committee's 2016 recommendations. Gornnert seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Belknap County Conservation District Letter Request**

Morin passed out a copy of the support letter the State Conservation Committee wrote last year in support of Belknap CCD's budget. Morin asked the SCC to write another support letter in support of their 2017 budget request to Belknap County.

Gornnert motioned for the State Conservation Committee to write a letter supporting Belknap County Conservation District's 2017 Belknap County budget request. Parker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Supervisor appointments, re-appointments, and filling unexpired terms**

Brownson presented the re-appointment Strafford CCD by reading a brief description of the nominated supervisors.

- A nomination for re-appointment was submitted for Donald Whittum, Strafford County Conservation District.

Parker presented the re-appointments for Merrimack CCD by reading a brief description of the nominated supervisor.

- A nomination for re-appointment was submitted for Peter Blakeman, Merrimack County Conservation District.

Parker motioned to approve the above nominations. Sommer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

### **Other Business**

Luke listed the meeting schedule for the 2017 meetings. The meetings will be held at NH Department of Environmental Services on February 16, May 18, August 17, and November 16, 2017, from 9:00 am to noon.

**The next meeting will be held on February 16, 2017, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the conference room at NH Department of Environmental Services, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.**