



**White River  
Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
District**

28 Farmvu Drive  
White River Junction, VT 05001  
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**Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes  
December 12, 2023, 8:30AM - 9:30AM**

Via Zoom

## **1. Opening**

- 8:30: Meeting called to order by the Chair.
- Approval of Minutes: Agreed to upload the minutes on the new website.
- In Attendance: Jennifer Byrne, Karl Thidemann, Niko Horster, Kate Willard, Jaiel Pulskamp, Alvina Harvey, David Blodgett.

## **2. Personnel Updates**

- 8:35: Discussion about the introduction of Peoplekeep HRA from December 15th.
- Healthcare Changes: Pat Richardson assisting with the transition. Three employees will receive healthcare; part-time benefits adjusted with board approval. Lisa remains on previous part-time benefits.
- Stipends: Full-time employees received \$600, part-time \$400.
- Accrual Comp Time: Switching to accrual comp time from January 1.
- Policy Revisions: Agreed to revisit personnel policy for long-term employees.

## **3. NRCS Updates**

- 8:45: Report on finishing annual payments for stewardship programs and upcoming reviews.
- Deadlines: Evals due by Jan 21, March 15th deadline for other projects.
- RCPP Applications: Working on 9 AFT/RCPP contracts in Orange County.
- Local Updates: Discussions about Birdsong Farm and Paul Knox's activities.
- Budget Status: Still under continued resolution, awaiting new budget.
- Next Steps: Planning to invite Courtney from FSA to the next meeting for collaboration discussions.



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## **4. Supervisor Elections and Town Appropriation Requests**

- 8:55: Addressed vacant seat and election procedures. Discussion on appointing Niko for an empty seat and holding an election for the other.
- Election Details: Discussed nuances of election laws and board appointments.
- Outreach Plans: JB to conduct broad outreach for more candidates.
- Appropriation Requests: Assignments for Thetford, Stratford, and Vershire (Niko); Jaiel to gather numbers for all towns; Kate to manage Chelsea's petition.
- Appointment Motion: Motion passed to appoint Niko to the vacancy.

## **5. Advocacy**

- 9:10: Need for comments on the governor's budget.
- Legislative Interests: Discussion on updating statutes relevant to the district.
- Research and Updates: Karl to comment on the budget; Kate to review documentation for NRCC.

## **6. Upcoming Events**

- 9:20: Land Care Congress (Jan 8-10) details discussed.
- USVI Trip: Planned for Feb 13-21 with a focus on launching a workforce development program and TSP certification.

## **7. Closing**

- 9:30: Agreed to move the next meeting to January 16 at 9:00 am.

[Meeting Adjourned]