



**White River
Natural
Resources
Conservation
District**

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**Board of Supervisors Meeting
April 17, 2024, 8:30AM - 9:00AM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83775114070?pwd=K2hvK1JDclFJcnVuUFBUCVlxVkhZz09>

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Meeting ID: 837 7511 4070

Passcode: 606726

Attendees:

- Alvina Harvey
- Karl Thidemann
- Jennifer Byrne
- Jaiel Pulskamp
- Niko Horster
- Kate Willard
- Didi Pershouse

8:30 AM - Welcome and Opening by Chair

- The meeting was called to order by the Chair.
- Approval of [March Meeting Minutes](#).
- Action: Niko seconded the motion to approve the March meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- Announcement: The tree sale is currently open and will close Friday.

8:35 AM - Financial Update by Pat Richardson

- Attendee: Pat Richardson, Accountant for the White River and Winooski districts.
- Discussion Points:
 - Reviewed the Profit & Loss (P&L) statement and the balance sheet.
 - Clare Ireland is exploring the possibility of getting the district onto the state's workers' compensation.
 - Noted an increase in payroll for the first quarter, with a need to meet grant requirements, including hours worked.

- Mentioned fees for membership in organizations such as the VVBGA and the League of City and Towns.
- Highlighted that different grants have varying reporting schedules.
- Clarified confusion with employees opening ROTH accounts instead of simple IRAs, leading to payments owed to employees for their investment accounts.
- A board member inquired about the timing of grants appearing in accounting records. Currently, no accounts receivable are showing up.
- Explained that when the district is paid by grants, it credits accounts receivable.
- The district must deliver an annual report to the state.
- The budget is to be completed before the fiscal year ends on June 30th.
- Historically, a contractor assisted with grant tracking.
- Action Items:
 - The board requested to see a cash flow statement.
 - Discussion on whether non-profits need a statement of financial position.

8:45 AM - [Local Working Group Report](#)

- Discussion Points:
 - The Local Working Group (LWG) supports NRCS work through local funding pools.
 - Requesting \$1 million for local funding pools, ensuring farmers and landowners do not compete with others in the state.
 - Two funding pools: one for the whole region (wetlands and forests) and one for specific local projects.
 - Ranking questions for the Ompompanoosuc to create a smaller fund pool focused on wetland enhancements.
 - Emphasized that NRCS typically does not fund small wetland projects, unless it is requested through a local funding pool.
 - Discussion on focusing on local watersheds and the importance of upland restoration and wildlife habitat improvements.
 - State report released on increased stream water velocity; stream bank stabilization is crucial.
 - Action Items:
 - Engage with landowners to educate them about the funding and opportunities.
 - Explore beaver management practices in wetland areas.
 - Determine if there is enough interest from landowners to apply for funds by August for fiscal year 25.
 - Board members and district staff to compile a list of potential landowners and projects.
- **Other Discussion**
 - Announcement of a workshop co-hosted by Connecticut River Farmers Allies with soil expert Christine Jones.
 - Event Details:

- Christine Jones will be in the Upper Valley for two days.
- Workshops will focus on multiple land uses in various states of pasture, hay, and crop production.
- Potential farm locations include the Hodge Farm and Root Five Farm to demonstrate the need for improvement.
- Tree Sale: Reminder for board members to order trees and consider hosting a mini nursery on their property.

Next Steps

- Board Chair: Called for a motion to pass the March minutes.
- Niko: Seconded the approval of the March minutes.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for May 8th, 2024.

Meeting Adjourned