



**White River
Natural
Resources
Conservation
District**

28 Farmvu Drive
White River Junction, VT 05001
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(802) 369-3167

**Board of Supervisors Meeting
November 14, 2023, 8:30AM - 9:30AM
Via Zoom**

Attendees:

- Jennifer Byrne
- Karl Thidemann
- Niko Horster
- Kate Willard
- Jaiel Pulskamp
- Alvina Harvey
- David Blodgett

8:30 Welcome and Opening

- The meeting commenced at 8:30 AM with the Chair welcoming all attendees.

8:35 Personnel

- Jaiel was introduced as the new Community Information Officer.
- It was highlighted that vacation time will switch over to accrual basis starting January 1st.
- Discussion focused on proposed changes in the personnel policy, particularly related to vacation time accrual.

8:40 NRCS Updates

- Updates on various programs were provided:
- CSP Renewals sent out; 1 in Orange County.
- Deadline for FY24 was Oct 20; applications assigned to planners.
- EQIP had 25 applications in Orange County and 6 CSP applications.
- Allocation details for EQIP classic, IRA, and CSP IRA were shared.
- Discussions revolved around the SOP, farmer relationships, and support mechanisms.
- Highlighted the need for improved outreach efforts and monitoring processes by NRCS.

8:50 Conservation Training Proposal

- Discussion centered around increasing training opportunities in conservation.
- Mention of AGLearn, a free online course, and the proposal to guide individuals through this program.
- Consideration of paying individuals to undergo this training.
- Plans for in-person training sessions and public/staff training programs.
- Funding updates, partnerships, and potential expansion to a statewide initiative.
- Efforts to involve high schools, collaborations with organizations like Women in Agriculture and Regeneration Corps.
- Questions arose about participant eligibility, potential collaborations with educational institutions (e.g., Bennington College, VTC), and time-limited funds.
- Jennifer agreed to reach out to Pat Moulton for further discussion.



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9:00 VACD Annual Meeting

- Board members reflected on their attendance and experiences at the meeting.
- Discussion ensued about state advocacy, VACD's mission, staffing issues, confusion regarding leadership, and funding discrepancies between VACD and NRCC.
- Concerns raised about accountability, organizational structure, and conflicts of interest.
- Kate volunteered to participate in NRCC meetings for better communication and representation.

9:10 New AgCWIP proposal

- Brief mention of a new AgCWIP proposal; further details were not discussed.

Other Business

- **The next meeting is scheduled for December 12th, with a note that Kate may not be able to attend.**

These minutes serve as a summary of the discussions held during the meeting and are subject to review and amendments in the next meeting.