



Board Meeting

May 18th 1-4pm

In Attendance: Linda Brownson, Jackie Cullen, Bob Porter, Richard Mellor, Kitty Miller, Alena Warren, Dorn Cox, Bill Fosher, John Treat, Donna Hepp

Table of Contents:

[NACD Northeast Annual Meeting](#)

[Treasurer's Report](#)

[NHACD Board retirees](#)

[LISW-RCPP Updates](#)

[NHACD Project Agronomist Report](#)

[NHACD Grant opportunities](#)

[Xerces Society Commitment](#)

[Communication Committee Report](#)

[NRCS and NACD](#)

[Soil Health News and the CIG](#)

[2017 NHACD Annual Meeting, Keene, NH](#)

[Other business](#)

NACD Northeast Annual Meeting:

Last year was in NJ, rotate every year and this year is in VT August 13-15 Burlington VT.

VT very different system, Law to get a Nutrient Management plan so the farmers come to them, NH is the opposite.

Minutes of February 16th: Approved

Treasurer's Report: John Treat

First Item: Balance Sheet, YTD to 4/30/15.

John and Jackie in updating accounting made separate "bank accounts" in quickbooks to track grants. We're moving away from that system to put things only into a "job" and use one single bank account, as we do literally.

Budget: Showed past years to see what we've done in the past to inform what to do in the future.

Have in the Budget \$50000 for demo agreement but as of right now we do not have a new Demo agreement coming up.

LISW-RCPP – have not officially expended funds for that, paying Bill, Linda is submitting the first invoice at the end of the month. Given a quarterly report of \$30,000 in Match, so we feel more confident about reaching our total match requirements. Not sure of the submitted amount, depends on what Bill turns in, but will begin to have cash flow going.

Across three years total income has increased by \$100,000

Increase in salaries account for addition of Bill Fosher, agronomist

Grant Expenses: Outreach, Admin Agreement, Engineering,

ADD CIG EXPENSE ACCOUNT

CIG JOBS

Workshops and Programs, Didn't budget anything, will need to add something to that. Farm/Forest Expo and Saving Sp. Places,

\$45k under Demo projects, should have gone to grant expenses, matters b.c it defines whether it's a project that involved NHACD directly, Pollinator/Cottontail involved other districts in the state and separate projects.

Treasurer's report filed

NHACD Board Retirees

Rob LaRoque is retiring from his District and NHACD Board, need another member from Merrimack. Rob said they have someone in mind already and we hope to hear from them soon.

Bob Goodrich has retired from state cons. Committee and NHACD, will stay on Rockingham County Board

Bill Hunt new Rep for Strafford and Rockingham. Encouraged him to come to SCC meeting next week.

Can have two reps from each county if one is an officer, would love to get one from Grafton county and Coos

Carroll and Hillsborough county

Belknap, Donna Hepp is now officially a board member

LISW-RCPP Updates

Steering Committee meeting this week in Keene, NH. NY state not present. Reviewed the project dates for progress reports, last one was March 8 and next one is March 1 – August 31st due by Sept 8th. Invoice is due June 8th.

CT is in charge of the overall project. Examples of significant contributions to make up the match: Tom Morgart, State Cons. CT, said if you visit a farm, if they sign up for NRCS practice to do with soil health, we can use the cost share of that practice as match.

Bill in best position to know, needs to make sure he has some way of knowing if a sign up happened.

For all of these practices, they pay a percentage of what they believe it will cost, so the actual costs may differ.

NHACD Project Agronomist Report

Has been up and down from Canadian border to MA border to different farms. Still looking for some to work with particularly in Sullivan County.

Why Sullivan? Just haven't developed county contacts yet, have several in Cheshire and a good list in Grafton and Coos is starting to trickle in. Haven't been able to spend much time pounding the pavement and trying to get more time with Lionel.

Call Bob Porter next time

Land owners are needed, not necessarily farmers. Latest is someone who owns 11 and 19 acres of farmland at the confluence of Ashuelot and CT rivers in Hinsdale. Area where the stream bank has started to collapse. Found farmers to lease land and use soil health practices – silage corn to perennial hay crop with no-till. Will bring in more partners, CT River Conservancy, Steve Pytlik and Ron Rhodes and Bill are trying to schedule a meeting down there together. Appears to have been caused by the failure of an NRCS practice. Built a grassy area on the river to channel flow from the field, takes water from downstream edge, put a channel to get it out at the top. Riverbank is collapsing. NRCS may have some funding to help CTRC stabilize that area.

One farm needs a Nutrient Management Plan and have discovered we have a shortage of NM Planners in the state. Talked about Bill writing it and District Approving it. Issue is whether Bill has enough time.

Met with Jen Colby from VT. Still vague as to what VT can do in the NH river watershed. They can work on our side, we can't work on theirs. Bill's charge is to stick to 4 counties we're working in. Concerns that VT will work in NH and we won't know about it and connections will be missed. Conversation with Jen didn't bear that out as a reasonable concern. They want to come in if we want them, resources offered are in flux. People involved are either retiring or in shuffle. Jen Colby is coordinator of pasture program for UVM Extension, 50% full time equivalent position, believe there is a second. <http://www.uvm.edu/~pasture/?Page=contact.html>

Good data for quality of river? None at all of his own, not sure what's out there. Citizen science project a few years ago with watershed council to collect that kind of data, will ask Ron about it.

Interested in quality between the dams, Vernon, bellows falls, Wilder, Essex,

DES just released an up to date report on impaired rivers
<http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/swqa/index.htm>

National Soil Health Inst. Came out with an action plan, for every 1% increase in organic matter in topsoil, increase ability to hold additional 20 thousand gallons per acre (get correct statement)

Non-point source changes: None of it is quick, not like putting in a sewer treatment plan. Goal is to normalize soil health practices. Want farms to be seen as the good farmers if they use cover crops, rotational grazing etc.

Richard M. discussion on deliverables and how to measure them. Science was a bit sketchy, building a network of participants and expanding the reach into the whole watershed.

A lot of documentation, report on every visit, visit could turn into a conservation plan, and then a report on how the conservation plan went.

Should have 6 resource evaluations by the time we turn in our invoice.

NHACD Grant opportunities

NHCF – one per year for regular program, unlimited for donor advised.

Plymouth state has a site – find and use. Linda will give me contact information.

Putnam Foundation in Keene, deadlines are in June, can get to them Through NHCF, .

Xerces Society Commitment

Cons. Org for non-vertebrates, located in OR but doing a lot of work in New England. Just found out that we have a commitment to \$35,000 in match that's due in September. The letter clearly states we are committed. Some match has been totaled up mostly in Hillsborough and Cheshire County \$6,684.

Can Don tell us how many pollinator workshops have happened and divide that out? Bob Porter –Sullivan has been doing a lot. Send a memo to counties to ask for any pollinator work that can be counted as match.

Motion to move forward the best we can.

Jackie will look back through charges for pollinator and update excel sheet

Linda will contact the district to tell them what's going on and ask for their help, suggest pollinator and rabbit habitat.

Could we get some clarification from Jarod on what kinds of things would count?

Communication Committee Report

Richard Continues to go to different district meetings and encourages people to associate so we have a real association. Website is a good place, we're working on the format but we need more engagement to make it more meaningful and make it something worth visiting from time to time.

Have a new blog and youtube channel.

Assign a month to each district as an idea for contributions

Check out annual Reports of Districts online, steal content.

NRCS and NACD

New outreach agreement has been signed and sent for signature to Gayle Barry in DC. \$250k for 5 years

21.5% that Trump administration wanted congress didn't approve,

Concerning to NHACD is that Purdue was confirmed as Ag. Secretary, announced reorg of NRCS under USDA, concerns NACD, have already sent a letter to him. Wants to create Farm Production and Conservation mission area under a new TBD under secretary, breaks with Forest Service/Wildlife. NACD concerned that transfer of program cuts down on space because a lot of districts are co-located with NRCS. <http://www.nacdnet.org/newsroom/nacds-statement-usda-reorganization/>

Has sent a letter about new SAM and DUNS requirements: Link to letter: <http://www.nacdnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/NACD-Letter-to-Agriculture-Secretary-Sonny-Perdue-on-SAM-DUNS-Requirements.pdf>

Bootcamp seats left, nominations due. Alena has been: designed for engineering techs but useful for employees. Covers anything NRCS does. Went to 3-week long event. When Alena went had been at NRCS for a year or two, would have been great to go one month into her job. Would it make sense for Non-NRCS employee? Yes, interested in Nutrient Management Planning, soil planning etc. would be really helpful.

NACD/NRCS sponsoring leadership development symposium. \$1000 stipend to attend, June 22nd. Could be a supervisor, manager etc. Have 'til May 24th to turn in a name. in Nebraska

Soil Health News and the CIG

CIG grant is coordinating with the Soil Health partnership. Bringing in a lot of different voices to coordinate schedules.

First group meeting around no-till planter in Sullivan County roughly 25 attendees also included first round of farmers we're using in that area.

Soil Health partnership is a growing concern, presented on this process at NELM. Working with NHACD/Jackie to keep up to date schedules and events.

Second meeting in coordination with cover-crop meeting at Crete's farm in Merrimack county with 35 people. Significant that we're reaching a lot of conventional farmers and land owners at these meetings.

How's the feedback? 14 farmers initial sign up for the equipment rental. Primarily silage corn growers, some sweet corn.

Sullivan County was at Macnamara's and went to Stewart Adam's.

2 row is starting at Brookdale Farm LaVoie has already given it a bit of a try.

Conveyed at first meeting that this is truly a partnership, both farmers and us are needed to make things successful, passing on feedback and information from farmer to farmer.

Hearing the no-till planter works fine in early season but crimpers won't do much is the feedback so far. Pictures coming out later in season look like they're in a catalog.

Initially confusion on our part because equipment had just arrived. Some expected more of a demo, others expected a chance to set it up.

Videos are forth-coming.

Desire to do fewer larger CIG projects and focus efforts, this is a way to help them do that.

Next meeting is in Concord May 24th 1-3pm with Soil Health Group.

Went to an international carbon capture two weeks ago. Soil based carbon capture as part of the global solutions. Take home the science is solid

4 per thousand, if we can increase soil carbon by .4% over 10 years, we'll offset global human emissions. Anyone pay attention can easily exceed that but a lot of practices are going the other direction.

Other big projects didn't understand the magnitude, agroforestry are tremendous opportunities to access deeper water reserves and be better carbon captures. A lot more we can be doing with agroforestry. Alley cropping, buffer strips

2017 NHACD Annual Meeting, Keene, NH

Nov 2nd and 3rd

Working on a save the date coming out in the next week or so.

Takeaways: looking for statewide partners to sponsor, have a list, but looking for input from districts.

Keynote speaker is David Montgomery, has written 3 books Hidden 1/2 of Nature, Dirt, New Book mentions carbon sequestration. Growing the Revolution, bringing our soil back to life.

**would toadstool do a display of that book and advertise him as keynote speaker at meeting??

Local winery booked for banquet, hoping to get brewery,

Two tracks Friday and a tour of some local highlights to be finalized.

Building in time for networking

Hoping to get political delegates there

Aiming for 200 people

Other business

Jackie Annual review: discussed challenges, future goals etc.

Motion to raise pay by \$2 an hour. Motion approved.