LAMOILLE COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION DISTRICT

April 23, 2025, 10:00AM-12:00PM

109 Professional Dr.

Morrisville, VT

**MEETING MINUTES**

In Attendance:

District Staff: Peter Danforth, Caleb Nollenberger, Willow Longo, Sarah Skelding, Emily Porter.

Supervisors: Charlie Davis, Fran Sladyk, Jim Pease.

Guests: None

*Jim called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.,* *Charlie seconded.*

**Agenda Items:**

1. **Approve LCNRCD Agenda**: *Charlie Approved; Jim and Fran seconded.*
2. **Approve LCNRCD Minutes:** *Charlie Approved; Fran seconded.*
3. **Public Comment:** No

**Agricultural Program Report:**

* Caleb Nollenberger provides an update on training, including conservation planner training and a UVM pasture and hayland restoration workshop. Caleb mentions ongoing site visits and the draft proposal for the locally led funding pool. Caleb confirms he will enter the data and discusses future site visits.
* Sarah provides updates on various meetings and events, including a VACD capacity building meeting and a rural Vermont event on extreme weather. Sarah and Peter attended a legislative breakfast at Smuggs, where they discussed funding for the 14 districts. Sarah discusses her progress on level one training and upcoming training in ag-learn. Sarah did accompany Peter with a culvert inspection in the past two weeks up in the North Branch; there is a couple of culverts that could possibly be replaced for aquatic passage along that branch and a couple tributaries going into it, so all of that is being investigated and considered. Sarah did some education outreach with the pruning workshop and ended up having about 8 people attend. Sarah is starting to think about other workshops such as riparian buffers and forest farming to continue with the agroforestry theme. Submitted the nursery grant at the end of March through the Lake Champlain Basin Program to start a native plant nursery at the nature center. Sarah and Peter discuss the challenges of rodents and potential solutions for the nursery.

**Education Program Report:**

* Emily reported that there was nothing new to report. Emily and Willow have been plugging along. They are exploring woodworking with hand tools with the kids making biking chairs and it’s going well; the kids enjoy it. The kids learned to use a whole bunch of new hand tools such as hand drills, hatchets, etc. The kids have been learning to carve a picture of their choice on wood, the energy they have for these kinds of projects shows how much they like it and are interested in learning how to do these kinds of things; this will be something to try and incorporate more each year. Emily and Willow received results back from the core dating from lake St. Catherine, the oldest layer was estimated to be from about 1850. The Diatoms from that layer of sediment is estimated the phosphorus was around six micrograms per liter; putting these facts together it looks like in around 1850 phosphorus was around six micrograms per liter in lake St. Catherine. Then from 1875-1920 or so, there was a huge leap in the sediment rate of the lake for about 50 years and then it slowed down again. There was some sort of change that went on in the watershed where it was accumulating sediment faster. Emily suggested that the Lake Association maybe reach out to the Historical Society and try to see if there are any old photographs or maps that might indicate what that change in land use was during that period. They did save sediment from the entire core, Emily explained that it is expensive, but they could find answers to some questions in particular: which year did the invasive diatom come? Was it a tributary issue? Is there just a lot more flocculant sediment coming in? Or was it associated with any particular toxins or any particular nutrient we might be able to detect from that diatom communities at those times? Emily stated they need about $600 dollars per layer. Besides that, Willow and Emily finishing up the basin program, small education outreach grant scheduled for June. Purchasing a Storage shed was also brought up as a possibility, giving the ability to give up the storage unit and have everything for them onsite.

**Director’s Report:**

* **Stormwater and Flood Plain Restoration:** Peter discusses the Joe Brooks culvert replacement project and the need for additional funding. Peter mentions the pre-bid meeting for contractors and the status of permits. Provided updates on the strategic wood edition project at Rocky Woods and the installation of signage. Peter discusses the impact of the library move on the tree sale event and plans for the Lamoille County field days.
* **Hyde Park and Dam Removal:** The Hyde Park post office project and the potential for additional phosphorus credits. Peter discusses the subsurface chamber project and the need for a larger system in the future. Peter mentions the dam removal project at Morris reservoir and Smuggs access stand, funded by a hazard mitigation grant. Peter discusses the need for an alternate watering source and potential funding from the Nature Conservancy.
* **Oxbow Survey Results and Meeting Planning:** The upper deck's suitability for recreational sports and activities, highlighting the popularity of kayak and canoe access. Frisbee and other sports like soccer and basketball are considered for the lower deck, with a scale of one to five for environmental education opportunities. Trails with signage and pollinator gardens are highly rated, while the lower deck is considered for returning to natural vegetation for flood mitigation and wildlife habitat. The community gardens at Oxbow Park receive mixed responses, with 50% of respondents against their continued presence.

**Supervisor’s Report:**

**Fran:** **Total 2, 2 district meeting.**

**Charlie:** **Total 2,** **2 district meeting,**

**Jim: Total 2, 2 district meeting,**

**Martha: Total 2, 2 district meeting,**

* **Other Business:** Caleb Nollenberger announces his new role with the US national team, which will limit his in-person availability. He will be training and living in Florida and Princeton, New Jersey, starting in May, transitioning from a semi-pro to a professional athlete. Peter acknowledges Caleb's contributions to conservation assessments and offers him the option to continue working remotely or as a contractor. The need to find a replacement for Caleb's position is discussed, Peter is planning to advertise the job soon.
* **Upcoming Events and Tree Sales**: Peter mentions the upcoming tree sale and trout sale, with plans to hand over some responsibilities to Sarah. The trout sale will take place next Wednesday at Oxbow Park, with deliveries to various ponds.

**Financial Report Overview (see attached docs)**

* **Review Cash Flow/Bills:**Peter presents the financial report, noting the current balance of $22,000 to $23,000, which is on par with the budget. Two checks totaling $95,000 are expected in the next week, bringing the balance to close to $100,000. The budget for the fiscal year ending in June will be reviewed, with updates to the Profit and Loss by Class. The balance sheet shows a current balance of $2000, with no significant payroll expenses expected until the new funds are received.

**Timesheets**

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M. Jim approved; Charlie seconded.

**Next LCCD Meeting is scheduled for May28th, from 10:00 a.m.- 12 p.m. on Zoom** **and in person**