

PMNRCD Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2025 – **3:30 PM**

PMNRCD Zoom Number (<https://zoom.us/j/9041299305>)

Call to order: at 3:39pm by Don Markie

Present: Hilary Solomon, Averie Noble, Jaden Groff, Sadie Brown, Don Markie, Katy Crumley, Travis Thomason, Katie Stiles, Olivia Carlson, Darryl Kuehne, and Olivia Buttermann.

Review October meeting minutes (and discuss November notes): Board agreed to take more time to review the minutes and will approve them at the next meeting.

Financial Summary

Quarterly financial report: QuickBooks online! New license activated and data has been transferred. A couple bugs with merging the two accounts that have not been fully completed but will be soon. Overall, the program is simpler in some ways. Will have a P&L for the next meeting but accounts look good. Working out how to match payroll entries to our outside payroll company has been a challenge.

Guest Speaker

Travis Thomason (NRCS State Conservationist)- See slides from presentation. Travis introduced the locally-led NRCS and partners process and reviewed the timeline for this year's Local Work Group and Local Fund Pool. Travis mentioned that the locally-led process gives the Districts and our constituents the opportunity to 'inform and invest' 'the power of NRCS' locally. Inform priority concerns, program recommendations, training opportunities, and conservation practice standards, through a standard process across the state. He noted that it was a chance for NRCDs to aggregate feedback from multiple agencies. And reminded us that we have a \$5000 grant to help fund this work.

Partner Reports

Michelle Smith (VACD)- Not Present.

- Olivia Carlson (NRCS):

Obligations:

CSP Classic 2025- 1/24/2024

EQIP 2025- 2/7/2025

EQIP IRA 2025-2/7/2025

AMA 2025 -2/7/2025

Act Now 2025- 2/5/2025 ranked 14 days after having the application assessed.

Includes 340, 329, 345, 512, 336 – e.g. cover crop, not till, residue, soil carbon amendment (quick, straightforward programs).

CSP Renewals FY 2025 (have been announced)

Forestry- 7 - \$207,675.00

Agricultural-3 - \$52,404.00

New Members- Engineer & Wild Turkey Federation

District Managers have been interviewed and we hope to have selections and sent to the candidates by the end of the week.

- Olivia Butterman (FSA)-Specialty crop program, which is new and a one-time program is for fruit, veggie, and maple producers, and the sign up extended to Friday the 10th. If there are any interested producers, please email them.
- Angie Allen (DEC) – Not Present.

Brief Staff Reports (highlights from 2024)

- Hilary- Proud of the technical, field work portion of work completed in the past year. Responded to Katy that we did not apply to the LCBP 2025 organizational support grant due to other grant deadlines.
- Jennifer- Not present.
- Sadie- Proud of the work completed with the field portion of the technical projects and looking to improve organization and increase the number of workshops and trainings that she attends. Will need to look into how to bill this time.
- Averie- Proud of the wide array of projects that the district has accomplished. Has the goal of working on being more educated about what we do as an organization.
- Whitney- Proud of the number of farms engaged with in the first year, and looks forward to finding more efficient and effective ways to engage with more farms, more regularly.
- Jaden- Proud of plantings installed and work with landowners through LEAP and Lake Wise. Hopes to improve on photo documentation of the work completed.

Old Business

CWSP update: O&M contract ends this month. Not all spent due to late timing of CWSP Chapter 7 guidance completion, and some projects are almost impossible to complete/cannot be used. Rolling into new formula grant.

NRCD legislative update: Looking for more funding, but may be difficult. Have not heard word about testifying to legislature yet.

VACD Annual Mtg: N/A.

Possible HR work – How to proceed? Will move this conversation to the next meeting due to time. Hilary to connect to bring more info to next meeting.

New Business

Rutland NRCD new DM- Katie Stiles was introduced as new district manager. Asked Hilary for some guidance on filling a board member position.

Strategic Wood Addition Partnership Grant Application- Hilary, Sadie have been working on. Wrote in Rutland NRCD for 75 hours. Partnered with TNC, TU, and Rutland as main partners along with additional secondary partners.

Washington County SWCD Water Quality Partnership- Have partnered with PMNRCD in the past and picking back up hoping to collaborate with taking water quality samples, hope to share data, and have PMNRCD partake in March meeting to share data.

Schedule for staff reviews- Date decided to have reviews was February 12th. The format of the reviews is to be determined.

Interview for New Position Applicant- may have missed some applications d/t incorrect email. Tried to connect with address owner to recover but have not had luck. One applicant, 1.5 hours away. Plan to interview, wondering if distance is a factor? May not be but will be a discussion. Don is on board to be on the hiring committee.

Don moved to adjourn at 5:00pm. Seconded by Darryl.