

PMNRCD Board Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2025 – **3:30 PM**

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

Call to order: Don Markie at 3:36

Present: Hilary Solomon, Don Markie, Katy Crumley, Darryl Keuhne, Sadie Brown, Jen Alexander, Averie Noble, Jaden Groff, Vicki Pattison-Willits, Olivia Carlson, Olivia Butterman

Approve February meeting minutes: Minutes approved.

Financial Summary

Quarterly financial report: QBO up and running! The financial records are up to date through December 2024. Profit and loss report presented for first half of FY25. District is in the black due to extra invoicing for LCBP and two recent deposits from VAAFM.

Guest Speaker

N/A

Partner Reports

Michelle Smith (VACD)- Not present

Olivia Carlson (NRCS)- NRCS is working to meet EQIP payments with changes that have occurred at the Federal level. They are using classic EQIP funds to cover payments that were originally designated to the IRA funds. They lost three staff members from the Rutland Field Office, one new soil conservationist and two new engineers. Olivia has been working closely with us to complete the Locally Led process, leading to our local fund pool.

Olivia Butterman (FSA)- Olivia is now the lone FSA staff in the Rutland Field Office. She is working on keeping up with payments (and we hear doing a good job).

Angie Allen (DEC) – Not present

Brief Staff Reports

Hilary- Hilary updated the board on progress made on QB online and the CWSP. She deferred to her staff for their great slideshows and updates on our general policies and procedures that we are updating through our several organizational support grants.

Jennifer- Jennifer updated the board on her general work and her upcoming surgery. We focused on the injector and its path forward with VAAFM and a new farm site.

Whitney- Not present.

Sadie- Sadie gave updates on tree plantings for the spring (PUR Projet, NFWF, TFS, and CWSP applications and/or project work in process), nursery activities, LCBP applications underway (nursery and large EO), and our SVU interns.

Averie- Averie gave a presentation on the staff onboarding slideshow that she is creating.

Jaden- Jaden gave a presentation on the CWSP O&M and DEC project database search she conducted and the presentation she created for Hilary to give to the Rutland RPC as they planned future project development and O&M deliverables and work.

Victoria- Vicki gave a presentation on the new district outreach plan, which is currently under development.

Old Business

CWSP update: Hilary gave an update on the O&M start-up grant completion for DEC, the current round of projects (6 approved on 3/6/35 at the last BWQC meeting), and the general workload for her CWSP work. Jaden helped significantly with the O&M start up work and we hope to recruit Vicki for some of the contracting and other work for the new projects.

NRCD legislative update: Hilary and Katie Stiles (NRNCD) are visiting with the Rutland delegation on 3/19/25 at 8:00 AM in Montpelier. They are coordinating on handouts to present and working on their talking points. House Ag and House Environment both advocated for over a million dollars in funds for the districts in their budget memos, which is exciting.

Possible HR work: (next meeting)

New Business

New grants: We have submitted the following grants recently: LCBP Strategic Wood Addition – large E&O, and we need to rewrite it to take out words like diversity and climate; Sunset/Sunrise Lake Wise Surveys; Water Chestnuts 2025, and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) 2025 Regional Partnership.

Injector Update: After a discussion about the pros and cons for making the manure injector (part of the VAAFM CEAP and VHCB Watershed Grants programs) available to a single farmer to use and inject the required acres in our contract, the board settled on the following:

Don Markie motioned, and Katy seconded: PMNRCD will create a transparent process and partner with a farm to take on the required acreage and fulfill the requirements of the VAAFM contract. Don mentioned contacting a lawyer to make sure there isn't liability in eventually transferring the injector to a farm for ownership. The motion was approved.

In follow-up calls with VAAFM and an email response from Sonia Howlett, we have been encouraged to work with the farm that is offering to assist us and to then provide outreach to farms that might be interested in an injector to help them with future CEAP applications. Sonia made clear that PMNRCD needs to fulfill more acres and that meeting the VAAFM requirements should be a focus of any plan to move forward with a farm.