

PMNRCD Board Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2025 – **3:30 PM**

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

Call to order: Don called the meeting to order at 3:36 PM.

Present: Don Markie, Katy Crumley, Darryl Kuehne, Hilary Solomon, Vicki Pattison-Willits, and Whitney Burgess.

Approve March meeting minutes: Approved.

Financial Summary

Quarterly financial report:

Guest Speaker

N/A

Partner Reports

Michelle Smith (VACD)- Not present.

Olivia Carlson (NRCS)- Not present, had a conflicting meeting.

Olivia Butterman (FSA)- Not present at the meeting but emailed notes: ARC-PLC sign-up deadline is April 15, 2025, and ECAP sign-up deadline is August 15, 2025

Angie Allen (DEC) – Not present.

Brief Staff Reports

Hilary- Gave an update on current and recent grant applications. Hilary is working to get new staff oriented to their grants and to her work where they are helping her. She gave a partial CWSP update, which will be recorded below.

Jennifer- Recovering from back surgery and will be back to work 4/14.

Whitney- Working on soil sampling at multiple farms and seed down filter strip with one farm she's been assisting to sign up for cost share for the first time in a long while. GoCrop reports are back up and running and she's been turning in the reports from our NMP class for Heather's review. She's looking forward to attending a two-day agronomic training that will cover NMP details, RUSLE2, nutrients, manure, etc...

Sadie- At the nursery – digging up the bareroot beds.

Averie- At the nursery – digging up the bareroot beds.

Jaden- At the nursery – digging up the bareroot beds.

Victoria- Spent a day getting to know our 2025 planting sites with Sadie, Hilary, and the Audubon crew. And is helping Hilary with a variety of projects while she gets up to speed on and starts her own grants.

Old Business

Injector Update: The injector is at Kyle and Kristal's farm. They are trying to get it working. Now that VAAFM has asked us to retain ownership until the contract with them is completed (three more years, if all goes well), the board would like to extend a one-year contract to Kyle and spend the next year exploring the potential for other farms who may want a CEAP grant for an injector for themselves or possibly be interested in using our injector.

The board made a new motion: Provide the Rousseau Farm with a one-year contract for the injector and associated equipment. Gauge interest during this contract period and reconvene in December to decide about a two-year contract to finish up the grant. Katy motioned and Don seconded. The motion passed.

In addition, Hilary is to review funds available for repairs.

CWSP update: The contracts for the six projects approved in March are mostly complete. The final project contract to be signed is FHV-06 with PMNRCD, and Hilary has worked with the RRPC to pre-date the contract to the date of the BWQC meeting, since work on that site easement has been ongoing. Vicki has been helping with the CWSP work, including the spate of contracts, RFPs, and memos generated at the 3/6/25 BWQC meeting.

NRCD legislative update: The legislative work is going better than expected given the uncertainty of Federal funds. The legislature seems especially sympathetic of the Districts and appreciative of the work we do given the uncertainties.

Possible HR work: Katy and Hilary had to reschedule a call with Asure, who offers some HR services, but they are expensive and tailored private business.

New Business

New grants: Grants received include the Water Chestnut grant, Sunset and Sunrise Lakes Lake Wise, and the regional AIS grant (with a couple of new groups outside our district who needed municipal partners). We are waiting on a South Lake Champlain Fund notification for Vicki to do some outreach related to a State Park or other public access in the South Lake area. Very recently submitted was the Nursery Org Support to LCBP, which had a large amount of (potentially unstable) Federal funding available. Sadie wrote a grant that included a tractor for the nursery – which would be VERY helpful and significantly reduce labor needs (or free them up for easier, but also important tasks, like weeding).