



**White River
Natural
Resources
Conservation
District**

28 Farmvu Drive
White River Junction, VT 05001
www.whiterivernrcd.org
whiterivernrcd@gmail.com
(802) 369-3167

Board of Supervisors Meeting
May 21, 2024 8:30AM - 10:00AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89189790383?pwd=cmZBL1N5V0FIUkNBN0JKWEgrcnlxQT09>

+1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 891 8979 0383

Passcode: 802969

Attendees:

- Alvina Harvey
- Karl Thidemann
- Jennifer Byrne
- Jaiel Pulskamp
- Niko Horster
- Kate Willard
- Didi Pershouse

8:30 AM - Welcome and Approval of Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Alvina Harvey.

8:35 AM - New Board Member Orientation Reflection

- A brief discussion on the recent new board member orientation. Members reflected on the effectiveness and areas of improvement.

8:40 AM - Climate Corps Announcement

- The grant for Climate Corps was initially written for a hybrid program, but the grantors requested it be an in-person program.
- Partnership established with Bennington and Vermont Institute (VI) Woman in Agriculture.
- Housing arrangements need to be made for the Climate Corps members, who will receive a small stipend.
- Workforce development members from the VI will arrive on September 19th.

8:50 AM - NRCS Updates

- FY25 [Local Funding Pool](#) A request for 1 million dollars was submitted. Appendix A contains the results of our survey, which starts on page 12 of that report.
- There is a [draft Conservation Action Plan](#) that needs to be completed this summer.



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9:00 AM - Tree Sale Debrief

- 1,050 trees sold, including chestnut, yellowbud hickory, shellbark hickory, shagbark hickory, hazel, black walnut, honey locust, persimmon, and bur oak.
- Approximately 3,000 chestnut trees remain, donated by Yellowbud Farm.
- There are plans to plant the remaining trees at Niko's, coupled with a soil health workshop on May 31st. There will also be an additional planting event at Willie's on June 1st.
- Discussed the Hickory Mapping Project, Harvest Lease, and oil press initiatives.
- Discussed the need to meet and plan for next year's tree sale so it runs more smoothly.
- A recommendation was made to use tags.

9:10 AM - VACD Meeting on May 16th

- Capacity Building Survey results and reflections.
- Governance Committee updates
 - Tensions with Action Circle accusing the District of undermining lobbying efforts.
 - The upcoming retirement of Jill and potential restructuring.
 - Concerns over the role and effectiveness of VACD as the lobbying group.
 - Discussion on funding allocation: WRNRCD's funding issues and the distribution of funds.
 - There is a need for greater transparency and accountability from VACD.
 - Emphasis on the need for self-governance and setting a good example for other districts.
 - The board decided to draft several letters addressing governance and funding concerns with VACD.
- 30x30
 - Discussed the 30x30 initiative and Jennifer's testimony. 30x30 has not been discussed as a board. The board needs to clarify its stance.

9:20 AM - Past Events / Upcoming Events

- Reviewed the event schedule and the District all-hands meeting, Farm Force, and Circular Network events.

Other Business

- The April minutes were not approved, to be discussed in future meetings.
- Discussion on recording meetings and using Otter for future minute-taking to ensure accuracy and efficiency.

Closing

- Niko made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Carl seconded the motion.
- The motion was unanimously approved.



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- The meeting adjourned at 10:18 AM.