

THE FRANKLIN WATERSHED COMMITTEE
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
Franklin Homestead
November 12, 2009

Present: David Breed, Dick Benton, Lucille Rainville, Paul Stanley, Rolland Rainville, Dan Larivee, Jim Dewing, David Lucey, Sue Clark, Heidi Britch-Valenta, Jim Cameron, Peter Benevento

Jim Cameron called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Sec. 319 Grant

Jim Cameron announced that the grant cycle for the 2008-09 grant has been extended to 12-31-09.

Minutes

Copies of meeting minutes for meetings held 10-8-09 and 10-22-09 were distributed to the group to review. Sue Clark made a motion to accept the minutes for the 10-08-09 meeting. Dick Benton seconded the motion. The motion was carried. David Breed made a motion to accept the minutes for the meeting held on 10-22-09. Sue Clark seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report

Sue Clark gave the Treasurer's Report. Currently the balance in the money market account is \$39.60 and the balance in the checking account is \$3,381.85. A total of \$4,096.10 was paid in monthly invoices. Sec. 319 Grant money spent to date totals \$28,424.49 leaving an unspent balance of \$20,675.51.

Sue informed the group that she had received a letter from Dick Lang, President of the Lake Carmi Camper's Assoc. (LCCA). The letter indicated that the annual LCCA donation to the FWC should only pay for septic pump outs for LCCA members. The FWC believed that the LCCA money was for Water Quality Issues and not just septic pump outs. Heidi will craft a letter to the LCCA asking for clarification of the issue. It was noted that the last LCCA donation to the FWC was in Sept. 2008 in the amount of \$1800.00.

Coordinator's Report

Heidi Britch-Valenta gave the Coordinator's Report as follows:

1. Shoreline Projects: Letters have been sent to some landowners to determine interest in initiating projects on their shorelines. Two land owners have

- committed to a project. A total of twenty erosion issues have been identified with more to follow. Emma Melvyn of the UVM Extension has been working with Heidi to apply for funding through the Lake Champlain Basin Assoc. to complete the projects.
2. Dewing Project: The stream stabilization project on the Dewing Farm should be completed by the deadline.
 3. Shoreline Survey: The information collected this summer in the Shoreline Surveys is being compiled in a database. The database is nearly complete. Tom Clark assisted in establishing the database.
 4. Better Back Roads Grant: The grant application for the repair of Swamp Rd. has been submitted. Any work approved must be completed by October 2010.
 5. Sec. 319 Grant Final Report: Heidi has begun preparation of the Final Report regarding the 2008-09 Sec. 319 grant funds.
 6. Mike Benjamin Project: Heidi met with Dianne McGarry, to review a project proposal for a manure pit loading pad at Mike Benjamin's farm for the Farmers Watershed Alliance. They should vote on the project within a month to determine if they will fund the improvement. If this is approved no money from the FWC will be required. Benjamin will need to cover 10% but can put in for his time and equipment.
 7. NUVAK Proposal: Mike Benjamin has volunteered his farm for a NUVAK study. Chris Wagner's farm will be the control farm. Funding for the study will be sought through a NRCS Alternative Manure Management Program Grant.

Wagner Farm Project

Paul Stanley led a discussion on the potential funding of the needed repairs to the Wagner Farm manure pit. Trevor Lewis, NRCS was unable to attend the meeting to give an update. It was decided that the project would be put on the agenda again in January when more information is available.

Cover Crops

Heidi and Paul led a discussion on the cover crop initiative. It was disclosed that timeline issues impacted by the weather and funding restrictions imposed by the FAP limited the FWC's ability to fund cover crop initiatives at levels originally intended. Far less acreage was planted than originally anticipated. Rolland Rainville made the group aware that he had planted additional acres after the deadline. Dick Benton made a motion to fund Rolland Rainville's effort to seed an additional 20 acres with cover crops. The funding is conditional. It will only be provided if the seeding results in a positive outcome. The funding will be paid with either Sec. 319 grant funds or general funds, whichever is appropriate. David Lucey seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

It was decided that The Sec. 319 Final Report will detail why we did less than projected in the cover crop area and that Heidi and Paul will contact farmers for the information to document the same. In this regard David Lucey made a motion to move \$2000.00 from projects to sub-contractors to fund any technical assistance needed in researching the

cover crop data for the final report. David Breed seconded the motion. The motion was carried. It was also decided that for the 2010 Cover Crop Initiative the FWC will: coordinate with the FAP, seed with cover crops other than Winter Rye and seek to do inter seeding among the primary crops.

VT Watershed Grant Program

David Breed made a presentation on his plan for an application to the VT Watershed Grant Program. The program is administered by the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. Grant applications are due by 12-4-09. Insurance requirements are the same as the requirements for the Sec. 319 Grant so the FWC already qualifies in this area. The program awards grants up to \$20,000.00. David proposed that the FWC apply for funding through this program for the following purposes:

1. Stream Assessments: Complete Phase 1 Assessments on all remaining tributaries and complete Phase 2 Geomorphic Assessments on the four worse streams identified in Phase 1. Projected Cost: \$6,360.00
2. Culverts: Select the top ten culverts in need of repair. This would entail asking landowners for a 25% match. Projected Cost: \$6,102.00
3. Cover Crop in Corn: Propose a demonstration project limited to 100 acres. Projected Cost: \$6,000.00.
4. Education Outreach: Work with the Franklin Elementary School to develop a lesson plan that incorporates the Rain Garden planted at the historical log cabin in Franklin. Projected Cost: \$1,000.00.

The difference between the projected costs and the \$20,000.00 limit would be costs attributed to the Coordinators time. David and Heidi will prepare the grant application for submission by the 12-4-09 due date.

Insurance

Jim Cameron proposed purchasing liability insurance for Officers. He will conduct further research on the issue for presentation at either the Dec. or Jan. meeting.

Training Workshop

Jim also proposed a training workshop for Board members, especially in the area of managing multiple grants. This too will be discussed further at future meetings.

Adjournment

David Lucey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dick Benton seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Peter Benevento, Secretary