

**THE FRANKLIN WATERSHED COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Franklin Homestead**  
**December 10, 2009**

Present: David Breed, Dick Benton, Sue Clark, Trevor Lewis, Lucille Rainville, Paul Stanley, Heidi Britch-Valenta, Jim Cameron, Peter Benevento.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held 11/12/09 were reviewed. Dick Benton made a motion to accept the minutes. Paul Stanley seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

**Treasurers Report**

Sue Clark gave the Treasurers Report. The balance in the Money Market account is \$39.61. The balance in the regular checking account is \$4,807.05. This includes a \$4500.00 advance from the 2009 Grant.

A total of \$31,499.39 has been spent from the 2008 Grant. This includes a total of \$3,074.90 in current invoices to be approved. A total of \$17,600.00 remains to be spent from the 2008 Grant. Approximately \$11,000.00 in additional expenditures is anticipated leaving an estimated surplus of \$6600.00 in 2008 grant funds. This may be rolled over into the 2009 grant if not spent by 12/31/09.

**Coordinators Report**

Heidi Britch-Valenta gave the coordinators report.

Shoreline Projects: Six culverts have been identified for the project. A total of \$2400.00 has been transferred from cover crops to the project for hydraulic studies. Another \$1,000.00 has been allocated for design.

Dewing Project: The project to reinforce a stream flowing through the Dewing Farm has been completed.

Shoreline Surveys: A spreadsheet detailing the shoreline surveys conducted over the summer is completed. A total of 57 surveys were done exceeding the original goal of 50. The surveys have resulted in the identification of several shoreline restoration projects, which are being evaluated for initiation in 2010.

Benjamin Project: The FWA will fund the construction of a concrete loading pad for the manure pit on the Benjamin Farm.

LCBP Grant Application: The Lake Champlain Basin Program Grant Application has been submitted. The grant requests \$7500.00 to be used for shoreline erosion outreach.

Lothian Farm Project: A proposal for a CREP initiative on the Lothian Farm is pending. Paul Stanley and Heidi are scheduled to meet with the Lothian's on 12/17 to discuss the initiative.

Governor's Award: Submitting an application for the Governor's Award for environmental achievement is under consideration.

319 Final Report: A draft of the final report for the Sec. 319 Grant is completed and copies have been distributed for comment.

LCCA Funding: The misunderstanding concerning the LCCA funding and the septic pump out program has been resolved.

### **GPS Device**

During the Coordinator's Report the need for a GPS Device with mapping capability surfaced. Dick Benton made a motion to purchase a GPS device with mapping not to exceed \$300.00. Peter Benevento seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Wagner Farm Project**

Trevor Lewis of the Vermont Assoc. of Conservation Districts gave an overview of the pending proposal for the correction of the leakage from the Wagner Farm manure pit. The proposal entails a multi prong approach to limit surface water entering the pit. Retro fitting the pit with a liner is also under consideration. Trevor stated the pit is built to accommodate the herd if it operates correctly. Funding for the project will hopefully emanate from a Federal/State NRCS grant subject to restrictions. The project proposal is currently with an NRCS Planner who rates the project for funding. If approved funding should be in place by 4/1/10. The FWC has offered to assist with funding if necessary.

### **Cover Crops**

Paul Stanley has taken pictures of this year's cover crop initiatives and will prepare a narrative for the Sec. 319 Grant final report. Paul's time on the cover crop report will not exceed that which was approved at the November meeting. Paul stated that strong, future consideration should be given to inter-seeding cover crops with the corn crop rather than seeding the cover crop after the harvest. Paul also recommended that a cover crop meeting be held late winter to plan for the 2010 cover crop initiative.

### **Fournier Farm**

Paul Stanley reported that R.J. Fournier has signed a contract to have soil and manure samples tested for the purposes of developing a Nutrient Management Plan with a Flex

Incentive to reduce the P-index in the soil. The Flex Incentive would pay \$25.00 per pound in Phosphorous reduction. The total cost of the project is \$1820.00. David Breed made a motion to fund the total cost of the Nutrient Management Plan with Flex Incentive for \$1820.00. Sue Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Water Sampling Report**

Peter Benevento reported on last year's water sampling initiative. The sampling included the major tributaries to Lake Carmi. A total of sixteen sites were sampled every other week from July 22 to October 14, 2009. Results of the sampling were made available to the group. A detailed discussion of the sampling results will be conducted at a FWC meeting in the spring when campers and representatives of the VT DEC are present. Peter also reported that next year's sampling initiative will include additional tributaries and culverts as well as samples taken at various points in the lake.

### **Watershed Grant**

An application for a Vermont Watershed Grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 has been submitted. The grant is administered through the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. The grant application requests funds for stream assessments, culvert repair and an inter-seeding cover crop project.

### **VT DEC Meeting**

Jim Cameron reported on a recent meeting he, Heidi Britch-Valenta and Sue Clark attended with Rick Hopkins and Sue Warren of VT-DEC. The purpose of the meeting was to close out the 2008 Sec. 319 Grant. Jim stated that the meeting was very productive. He stated that both Rick & Sue were very supportive of the FWC and complimented the accomplishments of the past year. Jim also stated that they understood our weather and timing problems associated with the 2009 cover crop initiative.

### **Member Brunch**

Jim suggested that the FWC hold a member appreciation brunch. The group agreed and a date for the brunch was set for Sat. Jan 30, 2010 from 10:00AM to noon.

### **Board Development Session**

Jim also thought a training session for the board with a facilitator would be very beneficial. This initiative will be developed further with a date to be set in the near future.

### **Residual Loan Fund**

Jim surfaced the idea of potentially pooling surplus grant money into a residual loan fund. After some discussion the idea was tabled for further debate in the future.

### **Adjournment**

Sue Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dick Benton seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:20PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Peter Benevento, Secretary