

State Technical Committee Meeting

01/25/2012
9:00am – 12:00pm
The Nature Conservancy
22 Bridge Street, 4th Floor
Concord, NH 03305

Meeting Called By: **Rick Ellsmore, STC NH NRCS** Type of meeting: **State Technical Committee**
Facilitator: **Rick Ellsmore, STC NH NRCS** Note taker: **Shari Cohen**

Attendees:

Carl Bartlett (NHFB), Dorn Cox (Green Start), Richard Lutz (NHACD), Grant Mecozzi (NWTF), Jeremy Lougee (NRCS), Eric Williams (NH DES), Josh Jennings (FSA), Ryan Dubois (NRCS), Joe Homer (NRCS), Betty Anderson (NRCS), Wendy Weisiger (SPNHF), Joan Richardson (CCCD), Diane Bennett (CCCD), Pam Gilbert (GCCD), Stephen Walker (NHOEP), Jay Phinizy (FSA), Marilyn Ricker (FSA), Duane Hyde (TNC), Tim Fleury (UNH CE), George Hamilton (UNH CE), Linda Grames (FSA), Kerry Rickrode (HCCD), Lenny Lord (RCCD), Lisa Morin (BCCD), Piera Siegert (NH DAMF), Erik Beck (US EPA), Janis Conner (NH Dept. of Ag), Lynn Brennan (SCCD), Eric Derleth (US FWS), Dave Welsch (US FS), John Lanier (Private Contractor), Gregg MacPherson (RD), Roger Monthey (US FS), Vicky Stafford (MCCD), Artie McCollum (US FWS), Jim Oehler (NH F&G), Tom Thomson (Thomson Tree Farm), Simon Thomson (Rep. Sen. Kelly Ayotte)

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item: Welcome, introductions, and partner updates. **Presenter:** Rick Ellsmore, STC NH NRCS

Rick Ellsmore began the meeting at 9:05 am.

Agency Reports:

Janis Conner, NH DAMF

- Trying to work w/ fewer employees, focus is Farm Bill, Organics/Best Practices, pesticides
- Vicky Smith went to hearing re: HB to prevent maple production from Fed. Regulations (to prevent out of state only certification of 'organic' syrup)

Erik Beck, US EPA

- Funding allocations should be decided in the next few weeks

Eric Williams, NH DES

- Event: 2/8 @ Pease, for modeling workshop on load reductions in sediment & nitrogen
- Watching w/ interest: House Bill re: lawn fertilizers to limit nitrogen put on lawns by homeowners

Simon Thomson, Senator Kelly Ayotte's office

- Main goal for Sen. Ayotte is to have her staff at these kinds of meetings as a way to understand how the Fed Gov't affects her home State

Dave Welsch, US FS

- Watershed areas for NY & NE; 200 grant applications in waiting (for budget)

Eric Derleth, US FWS

- Completed two habitat/New England Cottontail projects in Pelham & Lee
- Working on data sharing agreement - important to collaborate & coordinate our activities so that we do not have to list the species

Joan Richardson, NH ACD/Carroll CCD/CDEA

- Focus on strengthening each other in districts due to budget constraints. We will fine tune plan to work together later today.

Diane Bennett, Coos CCD

- Gearing up for Cornell Soil Health Workshop

Kerry Rickrode, Hillsborough CCD

- Invasive species removal w/ Litchfield Conservation Commission
- Community Garden project w/ Inner City Elementary School
- Pond flow and beaver dam project w/ a Town Pond Association

Lynn Brennan, Sullivan CCD

- Doesn't look like the County will be able to hire me full time.

Pam Gilbert, Grafton CCD

- Starting budget work now - we need to support each other
- Ranking period closed before we knew about it and we did not have answers for our producers.

Josh Jennings, FSA Committee / Meadows Mirth

- Successful Winter markets, new work w/ local schools, and more wholesale markets

Artie McCollum, US FWS

- Silvio O. Conte Refuge has partnered w/ NRCS around Connecticut River Valley Watershed

Lenny Lord, Rockingham CCD

- Budget cut in half – continuing to work to help towns - working more w/ local agriculture

Roger Monthey, US FS

- Grant programs; many requests therefore, a lot of competition for grant money

Gregg Mac Pherson, RD

- Administering 40+ programs – losing lots of staff

Piera Siegert, NH DAMF

- Concerned re: drops in Federal funding
- Last year brought in too many pests/insects and this Winter's weather is not helping

Carl Bartlett, NH Farm Bureau

- Prepping for Farm & Forest Expo 2/3 – 4

Jim Oehler, NH F & G

- NE Regional effort; to gain social acceptance to maintain forest habitats

Stephen Walker, NH OE & P

- Tracking bills that relate to conservation, adding conservation lands to our program
- Land conservation conference on 4/14th
- ADA requirements for handi-capped people to get out onto conservation lands

Grant Mecozzi, NWTF

- Education & outreach for landowners
- We received a grant from NRCS to do a seminar
- Habitat seminar in Freeport w/ LL Bean 4/7th

Tim Fleury, UNH CE

- Reorganizing – Univ dedicated some money but we are not out of the woods – we'll know in April

Wendy Weisiger, SPNHF

- We raised \$850,000 to work on balsams – now looking to Monadnock
- HB 648 today
- Partnering w/ F & G, NRCS, around New England Cottontail Initiative

Duane Hyde, TNC

- Active in Osprey Pine Barrens w/ WHIP \$'s from NRCS
- Outreach to landowners in targeted areas to inform about NRCS programs
- Grassland birds & field management techniques to improve nesting

Colin Lawson, Trout Unlimited

- Working w/ NRCS outreach

Dick Lutz, NHACD

- 3 watershed meetings coming up to inform landowners of programs to protect the waterways in their areas
- Going well for conservation so far in the legislature

Tom Thomson, Thomson Tree Farm

- There is an article re: The Farm Bill Progress Report in the latest November/December issue of Tree Farmer Magazine.
- *There are several issues of concern for NH tree farmers and forest landowners including;* lack of markets and /or markets with high peaks and low valleys; the impact of high cost of diesel fuel; the increase in rules and regulations impacting landowners and the forest industry, and last but not least the uncertainty of the eminent domain issue raised by HB 648 and the Northern Pass issue.
- With the proposed cuts from Congress in the current Farm Bill, we all will need to do "More with Less".

Lisa Morin Belknap CCD

- Working w/ Brandon Smith, NRCS, on soil health

Dorn Cox, Green Start

- Green Start collaborative continuing the soil health work
- Looking to get legislative approval – Strafford County will be included in county budget (NHACD)

Agenda Item: New Hampshire Update

Presenter: **Rick Ellsmore, NRCS**

Handouts; Agenda & State Technical Committee Purpose & Structure

- Let us know if you would like to work on any sub-committees

**PRESENTATION – posted to webpage*

General discussion

- NEC and EQIP vs. WHIP (converting EQIP dollars to wildlife projects)

Rick Ellsmore, State Conservationist, NH NRCS

- TSP certification will be nationalized

Agenda Item: FSA Update

Presenter: **Linda Grames, FSA**

**PRESENTATION - posted to webpage*

Agenda Item: Conservation Programs

Presenter: **Marilyn Ricker, FSA**

**PRESENTATION - posted to website*

Agenda Item: Important Forest Soils

Presenter: **Joe Homer, NRCS**
& John Lanier, Private Contractor

**PRESENTATION - posted to website*

Agenda Item: Wetlands Reserve Program Success Story

Presenter: **Jeremy Lougee, NRCS**

**PRESENTATION - posted to webpage*

Agenda Item: **NH Pest Issues (Forest & Ag)**

Presenter: ***Piera Siegert, NH DAMF***

**PRESENTATION - posted to webpage*

Agenda Item: **Update on Two New Invasive Fruit Pests in NH**

Presenter: ***George Hamilton, UNH CE***

**PRESENTATION - posted to webpage*

Rick Ellsmore, State Conservationist, NRCS

- Next State Technical Committee Meeting date: 5/16/2012

Meeting Adjourned

