



Caledonia County

Natural Resources Conservation District

Caledonia County NRCD

Board Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2025

Present: Willie Nickerson, Matt Langlais, Gillian D’Acierno, John Drew, Curt Busto, Brendan Noons, Amber Reed, Emily Finnegan, Dave Blodgett

Open meeting: Willie opened the meeting at 12:09.

Introduce Curt: Curt Busto is a potential board member. Board members, Brendan Noons, and Dave Blodgett introduced themselves. Willie noted that he is now the Chair of the Natural Resources Conservation Council.

NRCS Update: Dave Blodgett from NRCS provided an update. The application deadline is extended until January 15th; anyone who applied from 8/23/25 onward will now be considered in this round of funding for EQIP and CSP. There will no longer be a renewal process for CSP; all renewals will be considered new applications. For Curt’s benefit, Dave explained the basics of how the NRCS application and funding process works. Dave mentioned that at our next meeting, he would likely have more specific information to share about changes to NRCS programs, especially CSP. NRCS is funded through the rest of the fiscal year, so the January 2026 deadline won’t affect USDA operations.

Approve October meeting minutes: Gillian made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes, Matt seconded. Motion passed.

Reflection on community dinner: Emily shared CCNRCD staff reflections on the community dinner in November. The board agreed that having the speakers from different groups there was good, and the energy was good, but we tried to fit too much into a 1.5 hour meeting (but 1.5 hours is the right length overall). One suggestion was to have the conservation groups table beforehand, rather than present to everyone, that way people could have more in-depth conversations. The board also liked the idea of splitting it into two events – one focused on feedback for conservation priorities, and the other focused on action/volunteer conservation.

NRCS Draft MOU & Draft Unfunded Cooperative Agreement Review: Emily clarified the purpose of the two agreements, and that we are not meant to sign those agreements today, just provide feedback to NRCS by 12/19. A few board members had questions about the requirement for a “District long range plan”; what does this mean? Emily stated that right now, CCNRCD does not have any plans to seek another office space, and many of these requirements are not necessarily something we can negotiate unless we rent a different space. Matt asked if we wanted to hire an additional staff person, would this space work for us? Emily said no, at the moment there is not enough space for an additional CCNRCD staff person.



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NEK Chamber of Commerce membership: Emily explained the reasoning behind CCNRCD joining the NEK Chamber of Commerce on a trial basis. John is curious about the legislative priorities of the NEK Chamber of Commerce; Emily will follow up.

Supervisor election results: Emily briefly explained the elections process. Curt said that he wanted to be on the board and would be willing to take on Matt's expiring term. Matt will become an associate supervisor and step down from the role of Treasurer. The board could not decide who would fill the role of Treasurer and will take that up at the next meeting in February. Emily let Curt know that the term would be from 2026 to 2029.

John made a motion to appoint Curt to Matt's expiring term on the CCNRCD Board of Supervisors; Amber seconded; motion passed. Matt made a motion to demote himself to associate board member; John seconded, motion passed. Matt abstained.

2026 Meeting Schedule: The board generally liked the suggestion of a business-focused meeting every other month, and have the off month be more project-focused. In January, CCNRCD will hold the Partner Local Workgroup Meeting on Friday 1/23. The board decided business meeting dates for February, April, and June.

Project Updates: Emily provided a few brief updates on funded projects. Willie let everyone know that the application that he and Sam submitted for capacity building funding from WUV to look into concrete ways the NEK districts could collaborate was funded and will start in January. Emily shared that CCNRCD will be removing Weir 4 in the Sleepers River Watershed next year, pending permitting. She also shared some of the results from the Lamoille flood modeling study presented two weeks ago in Hardwick pertaining to the Jackson Dam.

Willie made a motion to adjourn at 1:53 pm, Matt seconded. Meeting adjourned.