

# **RI State Conservation Committee**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, November 29, 2004**

**9:15 AM**

**USDA NRCS Conference Room**

**In Attendance were:**

**Members – Peter Ginaitt-Chair, Ed Renehan-SRICD Representative, Gregg Cassidy-DEM Representative, Ed Baker-NRICD Representative and Eric Offenber-Governor’s Appointee.**

**Advisors – Judy Doerner-NRCS and Eugene Pepper-DEM Div of Ag Tom Sandham-ERICD, Alicia Lehrer-SRICD, Gina DeMarco and Wendy Hoyle-NRICD.**

**While waiting for a quorum, the Committee began with the reading of reports.**

### **I. Reports**

#### **a. Districts**

##### **SRICD**

**-The Annual Dinner Meeting will be Wednesday, October 27th**

at 6:30. The Keynote Speaker, Nicole Vitello, will be speaking on 'Manic Organic'. Those involved with Rhody Fresh Milk will be receiving awards.

- The Annual Report is in its final stages.
- They are continuing to work with the Town of Narragansett's Phase II and also the problems they are having with the goose population.
- The permit is in for the Mettatuxet Beach area. CRMC and DEM will probably review in October.
- Susan is working on the 'Growing a Future' gardening project at MET School and hoping to receive matching funds from the Narragansett Indian Council and work with the Narragansett Indian school in West Greenwich.
- The Narragansett Circuit Drive project is due to be completed in a couple of weeks. There are plans for an opening ceremony.

## **ERICD**

-Justine is mapping aquatic and marine accesses in Warren.

-Final signatures have been completed that makes Tom the RI

## **Grasslands**

**Specialist.**

-Allen Seed invited farmers to a presentation on a variety of seeds for fall

seeding of forage grasses.

-The district has put in a 2-acre test plot in Tiverton to test the new variety of

seed developed with URI for cattle forage feed. This project is part of the grassland program.

-Tom and those from DEM toured Beaver Brook Farm in Connecticut to examine this farm's value added initiative.

## **NRICD**

-The District report was distributed and Gina mentioned additional items:

-The district is working on developing a billboard educating on non-point source pollution on Route 6 in Scituate in the Spring.

-Knight's Farm in Glocester has just been sold. They plan to continue to sell apples there for another year or two.

-Ed Baker thanked Judy and NRCS for the great job they are doing throughout the state.

Peter Lord is unable to find the paperwork that was sent to him earlier about the

Districts and is asking for this to be resent to him.

A quorum was reached and the meeting was called to order at 9:40 am.

## **II. Minutes**

**Motion was made to accept minutes with a correction under NRICD report to include**

**the word 'contract' with Providence Water. Ed Baker/Ed Renehan**

**Unanimous**

## **III. Financial Report**

**Financial Report was distributed.**

**We are still waiting for legislative funding.**

## **Reports Continued**

### **Advisors**

#### **NRCS**

**-Judy distributed 2002-2004 funding report showing how monies were allocated.**

**-The FY 04-05 funds will be allocated in October.**

**-The CSP will be implemented in 2005 for the 1st time nationwide. A watershed**

**needs to be recommended that consists of 1/8 of the farmland statewide.**

**-There will be a computer buy in the near future. There is no**

**information on costs**

**at this time.**

**-Information on the Conservation Innovation Grants was distributed. Judy**

**thought this might be good for the districts to review. Projects that have a goal of**

**providing benefits over large geographic area will be considered. This can**

**include areas by watershed, regional, multi-State or nationwide in scope.**

**Applications should demonstrate the use of innovative technologies or**

**approaches, or both, to address a natural resource conservation concern or**

**concerns. There usually is the need of 50% match, but state land could also be**

**included in that match.**

## **RDC**

**-Jerry Bertrand has been assisting Little Rhody in getting the milk cooperative**

**up and running.**

**-RDC has just received funding in the amount of \$22,000**

**-The Council will be hosting a forum on Thursday at 8:30 am at the URI Campus.**

## **RC&D**

**Dexter has resigned as Coordinator and Eric Scherer will be acting Coordinator**

**a few hours per week. There is a clerk working in the office ½ days.**

## **DEM**

**-Eugene (Div of Ag) reported that monitoring is being done through the end of**

**October in the East Bay for trizene levels.**

**-In the summer, early fall they are finding levels of dacthal. This is caused by overuse of herbicides.**

**-Little Rhody Milk is now in Shaws and Stop and Shop. They have**

**had great response to the milk. The coop is trying to bring in other dairy farmers**

**and they hope to broaden their products to include half and half.**

**-They have been working on irrigation with the Good Earth Organic Center**

**-Curran Park is looking for assistance in laying out pipes for an irrigation system.**

**FFA may be interested in this and the Northern District was asked if they are**

**interested.**

**-They would like to offer turf farmers in South County education on the use of nitrates.**

**-Gregg reported that the new Citizens Guides were printed. The Rivers Council is looking into how land surrounding rivers that protect water quality can qualify for the FFOS program.**

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **a. FFOS Citizens Guide**

**Gregg reported earlier**

##### **b. RIACD Travel Budget**

**Was not presented at the meeting.**

#### **V. New Business**

##### **a. Directors Appointments**

**The Northern District recommends Jean Lynch and Norman Hammond for**

**reappointment to the board.**

**Motion was made to accept the Northern District's recommendation. Peter/Ed**

**Baker Unanimous**

## **VI. Other**

**Judy presented the State Committee with an example of a cooperative agreement**

**that should be written up between the three districts and NRCS. NRCS would like**

**make sure there is equity between the three districts in the assistance they receive**

**from NRCS. Jackie can prepare an excel sheet to present to the districts that would**

**assist in itemizing the assistance received. Judy would like to proceed with this as**

**soon as possible. The districts agreed to work with Judy on this agreement.**

**Motion was made to adjourn at 10:00 am. Ed Baker/Eric Unanimous**