

**RI State Conservation Committee  
17 Smith Avenue, Greenville, RI 02828  
949-1480**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, November 29, 2004**

**9:15 AM**

**USDA/NRCS Conference Room**

**Ed Renehan called the meeting to order at 9:25 AM.**

**In attendance were:**

**Members – Ed Renehan-SRICD Representative, Ted Comerford-ERICD Representative, Paul-NRICD Representative and Gregg Cassidy-DEM Representative.**

**Advisors – Judy Doerner-NRCS and Kevin Nelson-Statewide Planning.**

**Tom Sandham-ERICD, Alicia Lehrer-SRICD, Gina DeMarco and Wendy Hoyle-NRICD.**

### **I. Minutes**

**Motion was made to accept the September 28th meeting minutes.**

**Gregg/Ted Unanimous**

## **II. Financial Report**

**The financial report showing expenses from July – November 26th was distributed.**

**Motion was made to accept this report. Ted/Gregg Unanimous**

## **III. Reports**

### **a. Districts**

#### **ERICD**

**-The grazing lands contract between ERICD and NRCS has been signed. There was a meeting last week and about 12 attended. Tom attended a conference in MA and visited local grazing lands in the program.**

**-Tom and Judy will be attending the Diversity Conference in Dallas. Tom is going as a representative of the district and will bring information back to the districts and RC&D.**

**-Their Annual Dinner went very well and will need to look for another place next year because of the large attendance.**

#### **NRICD**

**-The District Annual Dinner was held at the Pines Restaurant with about 55**

**attending. The keynote speaker spoke on invasive species and a special thanks**

**went to Ed for all the years he has given to the district.**

**-They are still working on the development of the rain garden in Pawtucket.**

**They will be applying for grants to assist with this project.**

**-Gina has been working mostly on the Scituate Education Program-updating the**

**web site for Scituate information and on the billboard campaign. Under the**

**woodscaping portion, Chris Modisette has had 2 workshops to local residents.**

**He has offered to assist in developing a plan for landowners and will offer a 1**

**time consultation with a forest planner.**

**-The District held a well water workshop in partnership with the Home\*a\*Syst**

**program and DOH. This was held at Ponaganset High School and about 50**

**attended.**

## **SRICD**

**-Their Annual Dinner went well with about 70 attendees. Awards were given**

to those farmers in the Rhody Fresh Coop. Other awards recipients included:

Representatives Eileen Naughton and Peter Ginaitt and Senators Sosnowski and Lenihan.

-The District has applied for the following grants:

1. RFP as consultation on the Narrow River. This would include

tracking the outfalls for pollution issues to limit stormwater

pollution. This needs to be completed by October 1st.

2. 319 grant in partnership with other entities to reduce the geese

population on East Farm at URI.

3. 319 grant to do a study on turf farms on nitrogen loading from

surface to ground water and educate turf farmers on how to fertilize

without polluting.

4. EPA Wetlands Grant in the Greenwich Bay watershed, looking at

priority areas to purchase or enhance.

-Tomorrow there will be a grand opening on Circuit Drive at Narragansett

treatment facility for stormwater treatment. This even will take place at 3:00.

**b. Advisors**

**NRCS**

**-The 2005 appropriations have been passed in the House and Senate. They are expecting cuts in most of the programs and hope to receive this information by the end of the year.**

**-December 15th is the deadline for program applications.**

**-State Technical Meeting-TMDL's in MA & RI for the Palmer and Kickemuit Rivers. Judy is willing to assist with ag issues in these watersheds.**

**-On December 8th Richard Coombs, Regional Conservationist, will be in RI to see the different issues pertaining to RI. The hope is that additional funding can be obtained because of the diversity of agland in RI. He will tour areas in South County and Aquidneck Island.**

**Statewide Planning**

**-The draft of the Rules and Procedures for Ag Land Protection is with legal council for review. This will be available on the web. Kevin is**

**looking for feedback.**

**-The Forest Management Plan is in it's first draft.**

**-State Land Use Plan-several chapters have been completed and hope to**

**have a draft of this early spring.**

**Judy reported that there is a bill in the Senate that would prevent any new**

**watershed management action plans. Baileys Brook has not been approved**

**to start.**

### **III. Old Business**

#### **a. RIACD Travel Budget**

**The Association will need funds for the NACD meeting travel, but the**

**Association should be able to cover the costs. Ted will try to have the**

**budget by next meeting.**

#### **b. Cooperative Agreements**

**The 3 districts and NRCS have signed the cooperative agreements. Judy**

**would also like to know what each district is receiving from**

**NRCS. Judy**

**will follow-up with Jackie about this matter.**

**Motion to adjourn at 10:00 am. Ted/Paul Unanimous**