

**RI State Conservation Committee
17 Smith Ave, Greenville, RI 02828
(401) 949-1480**

MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2005

9:15 AM

Southern District Conference Room

Eric called the meeting to order at 9:25 pm.

In attendance were:

Members – Walter Elwell-ERICD; Eric Offenbergs-Governor's Appointee; Gregg Cassidy-DEM Representative; Harriet Powell-SRICD; and Paul Dolan-NRICD.

Advisors – Eugene Pepper-DEM/Div of Ag; Vicky Drew-NRCS and Kevin Nelson-Statewide Planning.

Tom Sandham-ERICD; Alicia Lehrer-SRICD and Wendy Hoyle-NRICD.

It was decided to have the election of the interim chair after all the representatives have arrived.

I. Minutes

**Motion was made to accept the February 16th meeting minutes.
Gregg/Harriet Unanimous**

II. Financial Report

The current financial report was distributed. After receiving updated figures from the RI Association of Conservation District; the Committee reviewed the travel budget. Discussion ensued regarding the amount that we should contribute to the Association.

It was also discussed that the Committee would like to hold some money aside to pay an intern to work on marketing strategies. Motion was made to reimburse the Association for the NACD Annual Meeting in the amount of \$1,375.06, requesting the Association to provide the State Committee with a written summary of the meeting.

Discussion: It was suggested that the Committee give \$1,000 towards the trip and \$1,000 towards the Ag Land Project and the marketing strategy initiative.

Motion amended to: The State Committee will contribute \$1,000 towards the travel budget for the Association. Harriet/Gregg

Discussion: It was questioned whether the Committee usually

pays 100% of the

travel expenses; but the Committee's policy has always been to assess each

request individually.

Vote was taken on the amended motion- Unanimous

The Committee is requesting all travel expense requests to be in to the Committee

by July 1st. The State Committee would like the Association to prioritize travel

requests and explain why it is better to send 1 or 2 people to meetings outside of RI

rather than sending a larger number to local training. The Committee also requests

a written report from each meeting. The State Committee would like to look into

what's available for local training.

III. Election of Interim Chair

Ed Renehan can no longer serve on the State Committee and an interim chair is needed.

Paul nominated Eric as interim chair, Harriet seconded.

Eric is concerned that being he had volunteered to sit on the agland preservation

project, he would not also be able to put in the time to be interim

chair. Harriet

volunteered to replace Eric on the agland preservation project.

Vote was taken to have Eric act as interim chair. Unanimous.

IV. Reports

a. Districts

SRICD

-They will be having their seedling sale at East Farm.

-They held an alternative lawn care outreach at the Narragansett Elementary

School. A local store provided information on organic compost.

-The February 23rd Open House had 9 people attend.

-On April 13th the district is presenting information on alternative systems that

can be used for stormwater prevention. Invitations went out to all towns, with

10 towns replying. Even those who are unable to attend, did respond.

-Concerned Citizens for Davisville are concerned about research being done to

restore Old Mill Pond.

ERICD

-The contract with NRCS for Tier 1 has been successful.

-The district has received a \$12,000 to study the feasibility of beef marketing in

**RI. Tom has spent the day with a local processor about the possibility of using
for slaughter.**

-The district will be presenting information about the conservation districts and

NRCS at a 4-H Conference at the Baptist Camps in Exeter on April 20th.

NRCD

-The seedling sale distribution day is April 22nd and 23rd.

-Through the Scituate Reservoir Education Program, the district has put together a billboard campaign on Route 6 west in Scituate. The billboard messages have been on ways to promote water quality.

There

have been 4 separate billboards-2 each month for 2 months.

A series of bulletins have gone out to businesses in the Scituate Watershed.

**- The district is planning a Water Festival May 3rd at the Drinking Water Day
at the treatment plant.**

b. Advisors

NRCS

-NRCS is working on allocating funds for different programs by next Friday.

-CSP applications will be accepted until May 27th. There was a front page

article in the Observer regarding the program.

-They will be ranking WHIP soon.

Statewide Planning

-The State Land Use Plan is being work on. If you have comments, Kevin can

be contacted.

-The Agland Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing on final

draft revisions.

DEM

-Gregg reported that they have been working on a GIS project on the Greenwich

Bay and Bucky Brook to assess restoration opportunities.

-Div of Ag-Gene reported that the div of ag is working with the Northern District

to implement a gravitational irrigation system at Curran Park. The Narragansett

FFA will be doing the implementation of this system.

V. Old Business

a. Ag Land Project

The Subcommittee has decided to meet May 5th at 9:00 am in the Southern District's office.

b. Marketing Strategy

We discussed how to proceed with this. Universities need to be contacted by next meeting. The Committee would also like to have a website set up. Harriet will contact Dick Perrault. Wendy will check with Northern's web designer.

VI. Other

Special thanks went to Eric for a good job he did reporting on the State Committee and the Districts to the House Finance Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15th at 9:15 am.

Motion to adjourn at 10:40 am. Harriet/Gregg Unanimous