

**RI State Conservation Committee  
17 Smith Avenue, Greenville, RI 02828**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**August 9, 2006**

**9:15 AM**

**USDA NRCS Conference Room**

**In Attendance were:**

**Members-Eric Offenberg-Governor's Appointee, Paul Dolan-Northern District Representative-Harriet Powell-Southern District Representative, Ted Comerford-Eastern District Representative and Gregg Cassidy-DEM's Appointee.**

**Advisors-Kevin Nelson-Statewide Planning, Roylene Rides-at-the-Door-NRCS and Eugene Pepper-DEM/Div of Ag.**

**Patty Tanalski-Southern District, Gina DeMarco and Wendy Hoyle-Northern District.**

**While waiting for a quorum, the committee discussed Eric's and the districts meeting with Kevin Flynn of Statewide Planning. Kevin is**

very interested in working at the grassroots level and feels the districts already have a relationship with those at the local level. Kevin would like the districts assist him in outreaching to the municipalities. Eric is asking the districts to put together a package for Kevin that would include annual reports and a cover letter on how the districts can be of assistance to Statewide Planning on reaching out to the local level. There is the potential for funding for this outreach.

Eric called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

## **I. Minutes**

Motion was made to accept the June 21st meeting minutes, Paul/Gregg. Vote was unanimous.

## **I. Financial Report**

-The expense report was distributed and a motion was made to accept report as presented, Paul/Harriet. Vote was unanimous.

-For FY 05-06, the State Committee allocated \$1,700 to purchase additional

Citizens Guides. Motion was made to order Citizens Guides up to \$1,700, Ted/

Harriet. Vote was Unanimous.

**-The committee discussed that each district and the State Committee's funding was cut this year-district base funding is \$47,500 and State Committee is \$9,500.**

**There is an additional \$23,750 that southern is continuing to receive. Eric**

**suggested that the \$23,750 should be kept aside to assist each district in purchasing**

**office property. Eric would like the Southern District to research a spot and**

**possibly use these additional funds towards the purchase of or for a long-term lease**

**option. This will be put on next meetings agenda.**

**-Roylene reported that NRCS is still looking for potential place for the office and**

**has told Southern that they need to be out by the end of September. The**

**Southern District is looking for another space. It was suggested that the Southern**

**District look at state properties in their area.**

**Eric needed to leave early and the committee agreed to move the agenda to put the Districts Policy and the Challenge Grants next.**

## **II. Cooperation Between Districts Policy**

**A draft of the policy and a draft of a cooperative agreement between districts**

**were distributed. The Committee reviewed and Kevin Nelson will make some**

**changes to the policy and get it back to Wendy to bring before the next committee**

**meeting. There was discussion of the appropriateness of districts going out of their**

**own counties to secure base funding from municipalities. The committee strongly**

**agreed that this is obviously inappropriate, but is a separate issue from the**

**cooperation between districts policy.**

### **III. Challenge Grants**

**The Northern District submitted a proposal to do 2 'Living on a Waterfront**

**workshops. The proposal was for \$1,200.**

**The Southern district submitted a proposal in the amount of \$1,200 to have Calvin**

**Weatherwax do a workshop on Ethnobotony.**

**The Eastern District will send in a proposal.**

**Motion was made to accept the Northern and Southern districts proposals, Harriet/**

**Gregg. Vote was unanimous.**

**Each district will send an invoice to the State Committee after they have held their workshops.**

**Paul presided over the remaining portion of the meeting.**

#### **IV. Reports**

##### **a. Districts**

**Each district previously submitted reports via email. Each district will submit their annual reports and a brief outline on what they can do for Kevin Flynn. This will be submitted to Wendy by the end of the week to put together a package for Kevin.**

##### **b. Advisors**

**DEM-Gregg will be submitting a legislative report to the State Committee.**

**NRCS-There will be a meeting on August 28th at 1 pm to review NRCS'**

**restructuring to have a watershed approach. This meeting is to include the**

**districts and partners. The national office has approved the Warwick office to**

**move forward with this approach.**

## **V. Old Business**

### **a. Ag Land Preservation Project**

**The Ag Land Conservation Commission will be meeting tonight at the Tiverton**

**Town Hall and their will be a tour of Sakonnet Vineyards following the meeting.**

**The draft Ag Land Commission Rules and Regulations should be out in September.**

**EDC has not approved them yet. Kevin will email the committee the date of the**

**public hearing.**

**The Ag Land Preservation Project subcommittee is still interested in resuming as**

**soon as the Rules and Regulation have been adopted. Kevin Nelson provided a**

**state land use map for each district.**

## **VI. Other**

**Northeast Regional Meeting-Gina gave a brief report about their trip to the**

**regional meeting. Next years meeting will be at Mohegan Sun and RI has**

**offered their assistance to CT for this conference.**

**Motion was made to table the cooperation between districts  
policy until next**

**meeting, Harriet/Ted. Vote was unanimous.**

**The Association of Conservation Districts would like to add the  
strategic planning**

**meeting on October's agenda.**

**Motion to adjourn at 10:30 am, Harriet/Ted. Vote was unanimous**