

**RI STATE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NRCS CONFERENCE ROOM
600 QUAKER LANE
WARWICK, RI 02886**

MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2013

9:00 AM

Paul Dolan called the meeting to order at 9:15am.

Present: Pooh Vongkhamdy, NRCS; Emerson Wildes, Jessica Blackledge, ERICD; Gina DeMarco, Paul Dolan, Jean Lynch, NRICD; Harriet Powell, Clarkson Collins, SRICD; Dick Went, RIACD; Paul Gonsalves, RI Statewide Planning; Ramona LeBlanc, Debra Aiello, Jill Osgood, RISCC.

I. Minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes of the January 29th meeting. Harriett/Emerson; unanimous.

II. Financial Reports: A motion was made to acknowledge receipt of financial report, Harriett/ Emerson; unanimous.

III. NRCS Agreements:

A. Outreach:

1. The three conservation districts are working on Outreach agreement. Three workshops are scheduled.

B. Small Forestry Program:

1. Four different small forestry workshops are being held during the month of March. The workshops will help to assess the feasibility of offering the program to applicants with less than ten acre lots.

IV. Old Business:

A. FFOS:

1. A letter to FFOS enrollees' is being reviewed by DEM legal staff. Review of formula for determining FFOS farm values is underway. Both of these items tabled until Ken Ayars is present.

B. Fee for Service List:

1. Draft flyers were handed out to board members for review. All the details will be posted on website.

2. Ramona would like to have them available to distribute to municipalities.

C. Policy Subcommittee:

- 1. Ken Payne has reviewed legislation. Ramona will attempt to schedule a meeting for April 22, 2013 at 4:00 pm. The meeting will be held at NRCS.**

D.SESC Handbook:

- 1. The handbook is out for review. An electronic form will be posted on DEM website; a factsheet will be posted to the RC&D site with a link to DEM.**

E. Engineering RFP:

- 1. Ongoing Project - nothing new to report.**

F. MOU's:

- 1. The board decided to table until Eric reports.**

G. Board Recruitment update:

- 1. All thee conservation districts have potential new associate directors.**

2. Ramona suggested each board hold an open house event to bring in new members.

3. Dick suggested adding diversity to the boards.

4. Gina suggested setting up a booth/ display at the seedling sale to advertise and answer questions.

H. Other:

1. The districts will continue to bill RISCC for program development and SCC mandated assignments.

V. New Business:

A. Legislative Subcommittee:

1. Tabled

B. SCC/CD Retreat:

1. The Board is planning a retreat for late summer /early fall and it will be kept on next months agenda.

VI. Reports:

1. Eastern District- reported they do not have a chair person. Emerson would like to know the process in which to get a new director. He would like someone to act as director until May.

2. Southern District- reported they are working on putting together a workshop at the Land and Water Summit.

3. Northern District- reported they will be partners in a \$200,000 -319 Grant. Gina is working with the Town of Scituate and the PWSB on projects throughout the Scituate watershed area; the projects include installing a rain garden in front of the town hall. Gina received a request from The Hope Associates in regards to assistance with geese abatement program.

RIACD:

1. Jean Lynch is the new delegate for NACD. Jean will be giving the RI report and requesting input from the Districts.

2. Dick will be attending the New England Leadership Meeting to discuss ideas and to bring information back to each district.

3. Dick has been attending the AG Energy meetings; he reported the Green Economy Group is becoming more vocal.

4. The districts are waiting for funding to move forward on the Land

Matching Project.

NRCS:

1. EWP money is available; Pooh sent in a request to receive money to clean up rivers and waterways damaged by Hurricane Sandy. This money could also be used to restore flood plains, and assist public in flood zone areas.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.