

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

**MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2013
8:30 AM**

Eric Offenbergl called the meeting to order at 8:37 AM.

Present: RISCC Chair, Eric Offenbergl. NRICD: Gina DeMarco. ERICD: Jessica Blackledge, Emerson Wildes. SRICD: J.Eric Scherer, Harriet Powell, Clarkson Collins. Kate Bousquet, RISCC: Ramona LeBlanc, Debra Aiello. DEM: Ken Ayars. NRCS: Pooh Vongkhamdy. Division of Planning: Paul Gonsalves. RIACD: Dick Went, Jean Lynch.

I. Minutes: A motion was made to accept the July 31st Meeting Minutes; Harriet/Ken; unanimous.

II. Financial Report: A motion was made to approve the July Financial Report as presented, Harriet/Ken; unanimous

III. Agreements:

A. DEM- Nothing to report

B. NRCS

1. Engineering: Eivy was hired in July as an Engineering Tech. She is in the process of finishing up a new design folder; to be reviewed by the end of the month.

2. Outreach: The final rounds of workshops are scheduled in September and October. A billboard displaying NRCS programs is on exhibit.

{At 8:46 there was a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of 911}

3. Small Forestry: The second of three Small Forestry workshops took place last night at Paul Dolan's. He focused on tree ID and controlling invasive species during the tour.

IV. Old Business:

A. FFOS

- 1. Letter to Enrollees:** A letter will be sent out to all the FFOS enrollees.
- 2. Fee Structure:** Eric Offenbergs suggested forming a group to look at the fees and discuss the fee structure. Ramona will be scheduling a date for the meeting.
- 3. Open Space Mapping:** J.Eric Scherer is looking at other services to offer. He would like input from the State Committees; also suggested setting up a subcommittee to work on putting together a new soil table-using the outdated document as protocol.

B. 2014 NRCS Agreements:

- 1. Pooh announced that he would like to have the agreements signed as soon as possible. He also added that he may have additional funding available for Small Forestry and the Ag Tech program. Eric Offenbergs suggested NRCS members send their agreements to Ramona accordingly and she will get them out to SCC members for review.**

C. MOU- The committee is waiting for hear from DEM on the document.

D. SESC- J. Eric Scherer provided a copy of Phase 1 RI E& SC to the Committee. He requested that the State Committee print a copy for each of the districts.

E. Board Recruitment:

1. Gina announced that Matt Tracy has joined the NRICD as an Associate Director.

2. Jessica reported that there are five candidates interested in joining ERICD. One candidate has a legal background.

3. Peter Stetson and Bill McCuskey joined the SRICD as Associate Directors. Po

F. SCC/ Board Retreat:

1. The Board Retreat is scheduled for October 19th at the South Kingstown Land trust Barn. Each district will have a separate morning session with a theme. An open session will be held in the afternoon. Ramona is requesting agenda topics for the afternoon session.

G. SCC/ FFOS Appointments:

1. Ramona requested that each district send her their candidates.

V. New Business:

A. Cash Reserve Policy: Ramona and Eric will review the financial status in the first few months of the new fiscal year and make recommendation for a cash reserve policy to be further discussed at next SCC meeting.

VI. Reports:

A. RIACD:

1. A regional meeting is scheduled for next year. A Taste of RI dinner is being planned for Monday night to the attendees.

B. Statewide Planning:

1. Paul Gonsalves reported that they are working on public workshops; all dates and times are listed on the website.

2. The website has been updated. (planning @ri.gov.)

C. ERICD:

1. Jessie suggested the RI Foundation's Initiative for Nonprofit Excellence to the districts. ERICD workshops are going very well.

D. NRICD:

- 1. Molly Allard was hired to take Becca's position.**
- 2. The Northern RI Conservation District's Annual Dinner will be held on October 17th at Chester's Restaurant in Chepachet.**

E. SRICD:

- 1. Kate Bousquet was introduced as the SRICD's new District Manager**
- 2. The Southern RI Conservation District's Annual Dinner will be held on October 28, 2013. A clambake is being planned for the event.**

Jo-Anne Pacheco presented a PowerPoint to the State Committee members on the RI Farm Energy Program.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45