

RI STATE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

2283 Hartford Avenue

Johnston, RI 02919

MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2014

RIDEM, Room 340 C

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Chair Maria Mack called meeting to order at 9:20.

Present:

RISCC Members: Maria Mack, Paul Dolan, Clarkson Collins, Emerson Wildes; RISCC Staff: Ramona LeBlanc;

ERICD: Jessica Blackledge; NRICD: Gina DeMarco; RIACD: Dick Went, Jean Lynch; RI DEM: Bev Migliore; NRCS: Phou Vongkhamdy; Statewide Planning: Paul Gonsalves;

Absent:

RISCC Member: Ken Ayars;

I. Minutes: Tabled.

II. Financial Reports: A motion that RISCC is in receipt of the financial reports was made by Paul Dolan and seconded by Emerson Wildes, motion carried unanimously.

Benefit expenses associated with program hours will be posted to those programs on a quarterly basis and a final adjusting entry will be made at end of fiscal year.

III. Agreements:

A. Existing:

1. NRCS Engineering: A twelve month extension has been requested to allow completion of required number of design folders as well as standard design packages, which will be completed by RISCC, rather than outsourcing, as was originally planned. Delays in receiving required information from landowners and NRCS combined with limited availability of RISCC staff at beginning of this agreement also contribute to need for extension.

2. NRCS Contractors List: A six month extension has been requested for this agreement. Lack of response to workshops scheduled for May resulted in decision to wait until end of construction season to host the workshops.

3. NRCS Outreach 2014: Two of the final three workshops have been scheduled for 9/25 and 10/3 in SRICD and ERICD, respectively. Both will have forestry theme and will feature woodland walks. A livestock workshop is being planned in NRICD.

Seventeen of requires twenty-for events have been completed with three more currently on schedule.

4. DEM Geese: Delay in signing of contract resulted in need for additional time to conduct public workshops. Discussion with DEM is underway to extend agreement until 11/30/2014.

5. DEM Traceability: Data related to movement of livestock in RI continues to be entered in statewide database.

B. Pending:

1. RCPP: Staff from each District have scheduled meeting for 9/24/14 to compile various components into a single full proposal. Guidance continues to evolve with a webinar scheduled for 9/11. Full proposal is due 10/2/14.

2. 2014 Bay & Watershed Restoration Grant: Deadline for proposals has been extended until 10/10/14. This is a possible funding source for Geese Abatement but is limited to watersheds with a Watershed Based Plan, all of which are in ERICD. There is a 40% match requires with potential to reduce to 25%. NEIWPC grant will be reviewed and potentially used as foundation for a new grant proposal. Jessie will look at match in geographic are to determine if it is adequate to submit a proposal. SRICD will likely take the lead on development and implementation of proposal.

IV. Old Business

A. FFOS:

1. Staff met to review all documents related to development of farm conservation plans as well as process for new applicants and current enrollees who must submit copies of plans. Ramona will edit documents based on discussion and have them posted in RISCC website.

2. FFOS Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled after consulting with Ken Ayars on his availability.

B. Legislative Changes:

This agenda item will be linked to Strategic Planning.

C. ERICD Status: RISSC offered to host a gathering of existing and prospective Board members, RISSC, other Districts and partners to highlight the District and the important role it plays in Bristol and Newport counties. One ERICD Board seat is currently vacant and two are due for re-appointment in January. Ramona will coordinate with Jessie to schedule event.

Based on a request from Emerson, Maria offered to facilitate the next ERICD Board

D. Technical Subcommittee: Ramona will continue to try contact Eric Offenbergl to schedule an initial meeting.

E. Strategic Planning/Organizational Policies: Ramona will schedule a meeting with Eric Scherer and Maria Mack to begin process and to determine dates of planning sessions.

F. Other:

1. Cathy Sparks was not able to meet with Districts during September. Ramona will contact her again to schedule meeting.

V. New Business:

A. Annual Report: RISSC is required to submit an annual report on District activities for preceding year

by 9/30/14. Ramona has asked for summaries from each District.

VI. Reports:

A. Written reports distributed by the ERICD and NRICD.

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:47 by Emerson Wildes, seconded by Paul Dolan: motion carried unanimously.

Chair Maria Mack opened executive session at 11:05 to discuss personnel/salary issues.

No action was taken.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Dolan, seconded by Clarkson Collins: motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:55.