

# **RI STATE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**2283 Hartford Avenue**

**Johnston, RI 02919**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**October 8, 2014**

**RIDEM, Room 340 C**

**235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908**

**Chair Maria Mack called meeting to order at 9:30.**

### **Present:**

**RISCC Members: Maria Mack, Ken Ayars, Clarkson Collins, Emerson Wildes; RISCC Staff: Ramona LeBlanc;**

**ERICD: Jessica Blackledge; NRICD: Gina DeMarco; SRICD: Kate Bousquet, J. Eric Scherer. RIACD: Dick Went, Jean Lynch; RI DEM: Bev Migliore; NRCS: Phou Vongkhamdy;**

### **Absent:**

**RISCC Member Paul Dolan.**

**I. Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, September 2 and September 10 meetings was made by Emerson Wildes, seconded by Ken Ayars. Motion passed unanimously.**

**II. Financial Reports: A motion that RISCC is in receipt of the financial**

reports was made by Clarkson Collins, seconded by Emerson Wildes.  
Motion carried unanimously.

### **III. Agreements:**

#### **A. Existing:**

- 1. NRCS Engineering: RISSC Engineer Eivy Monroy submitted her resignation effective November 7, 2014. Technical subcommittee will meet to review 2014 and 2015 agreements, tasks, and skill sets need for replacement(s).**
- 2. NRCS Contractors List: Mailing list is being updated. Workshop(s) will be held during winter months.**
- 3. NRCS Outreach 2014: Only one workshop remains. Several of the required 24 public events remain to be scheduled. Conservation Commissions will be approached to complete list.**
- 4. Outreach 2015: New agreement has been signed. Outreach plan will reflect recommendations of media consultant whose final report is due in December.**
- 5. Engineering Handbook: A new agreement has been signed which will fund CD's to take existing RI Engineering Handbook outline and either populate with new or existing documents or create placeholders for a document that can be posted to NRCS website.**
- 6. DEM Geese: Existing agreement will be extended. Meeting with DEM will be schedule to determine impact on deliverables and funding.**
- 7. DEM Traceability: Data related to movement of livestock in RI continues to be entered in statewide database.**

## **B. Pending:**

**1. RCPP: Full proposal was submitted on 10/2/2014. Copies of proposal will be sent electronically to RISCC. The week before the proposal was due, it was learned that rather than compete for funding in a nationwide pool of \$100 million, each state would receive a fixed amount. RI received \$613,000. Two proposals from RI had made it past pre-proposal stage: The CD's requested \$1.2 million and URI requested \$500,000. Both entities co-operated to reduce combined budget to \$611,000.00 and submitted a single final proposal.**

**2. 2014 Bay & Watershed Restoration Grant: SRICD working on proposal to continue geese abatement program in watersheds in ERICD.**

## **IV. Old Business**

### **A. FFOS:**

**Concerns over cost of conservation plans, which have always been a requirement of FFOS but previously have been developed at no cost to farmers through NRCS, was discussed. A working group was formed to further discuss options and it will meet on 10/16/14.**

**B. ERICD Status: An Open House for prospective Board members will be held on 11/6, 5-7 pm at Sandywoods in Tiverton.**

**C. Technical Subcommittee: A meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible to discuss Engineering vacancy.**

**D. Strategic Planning/Legislative Changes: Maria, Eric Scherer and Ramona will meet on 10/8/2014 to begin strategic planning process.**

**A Legislative Subcommittee was formed. Members are: Ken Ayars,**

**Gina DeMarco, Eric Scherer, Kate Bousquet.**

**V. New Business:**

**A. Open Staff Positions:** In addition to open Engineering position discussed above, the Engineering

Handbook agreement will require the hiring of 1-2 short term employees.

**B. A motion was made by Clarkson Collins to require two signatures on checks for more than \$500.00,**

**seconded by Ken Ayars. Motion passed unanimously.**

**C. Easement Monitoring:** Pricing will be developed for easement monitoring, both with and without baseline surveys and added to CD's list of services.

**VI. Reports:**

**A. Written reports distributed by the ERICD and NRICD. Oral reports provided by SRICD, RIACD and NRCS.**

**A motion to adjourn was made at 12:15 by Clarkson Collins, seconded by Ken Ayars: motion carried unanimously.**