

# **I STATE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**2283 Hartford Avenue**

**Johnston, RI 02919**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**November 12, 2014**

**RIDEM, Room 340 C**

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

**Chair Maria Mack called meeting to order at 9:05.**

### **Present:**

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

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

**I. Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2014 meetings was made by Clarkson Collins, seconded by Ken Ayars. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

reports was made by Paul Dolan, seconded by Ken Ayars. Motion carried unanimously.

### **III. Agreements:**

**A. Interviews are to be conducted on November 12 for Engineering and Engineering Handbook positions.**

**B. DEM Geese agreement will be extended for twelve months to allow completion of field work and trainings which were negatively impacted by late signing of original agreement as well as short 2014 field season. No additional funds will be added to agreement.**

**C. Recently signed Ag Tech agreements require a 1:1 match and all three Districts had been relying on FFOS Conservation plan fees as at least part of their match. Current uncertainty about these plans as a funding source will require the Districts to look for alternative sources for match.**

### **IV.**

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **A. FFOS:**

**1. Small working group met to discuss options for development of farm conservation plans. NRCS Nutrient Management Plans and Grazing Plans are being considered as potentially meeting FFOS requirements. Another meeting will be scheduled in early December.**

**The goal is to present landowners with three options: 1) have plan developed through NRCS funding source; 2) pay Conservation Districts to develop plan; 3) develop own plan with training and sample plans and maps available through CDs.**

2. Eric Scherer will develop an outline of the three options.
3. Phou Vongkhamdy asked for a written description and projected cost of a series of training sessions to be developed to assist landowners in the development of their own conservation plans. He will investigate NRCS funding for these sessions.
4. The need for a plain language guide to farm conservation was discussed. The modification of existing NRCS documents as companions to the SCC's Resource Guide was mentioned as a possibility.

**B. ERICD Status: An Open House for prospective Board members was held on 11/6. Attendance was good and several people expressed interest in joining ERICD Board.**

**C. Strategic Planning/Legislative Changes: Due to pressing nature of other SCC initiatives, strategic planning sessions will be postponed until after January 1. Requests for legislative changes may result from this process, but additional financial support for the Districts should be the primary legislative goal for upcoming legislative session. Increased District visibility was discussed.**

**D. Easement Monitoring: SRICD has developed pricing structure. Estimates will be provided on a case by case basis, but generally the cost would be about \$450.00. Baseline surveys will be estimated using same hourly rate.**

## **V. New Business:**

**A. Meeting with DEM Asst. Director Sparks: During an introductory meeting, Conservation District services and their potential benefit to**

**DEM was discussed. The possibility of the CDs using conservation practices being implemented on DEM controlled lands as match was also discussed. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled for January.**

**B. NRICD Appointment: Aimie Parris as appointed as an NRICD Director.**

## **VI. Reports:**

**A. Written reports distributed by the ERICD, SRICD and NRCS.**

**A motion to adjourn was made at 10:45 by Clarkson Collins, seconded by Paul Dolan: motion carried unanimously.**