

RI STATE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

2283 Hartford Avenue

Johnston, RI 02919

MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2015

USDA-NRCS Conference Room

60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI 02886

Chair Maria Mack called meeting to order at 10:06.

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; RIACD: Dick Went, Jean Lynch; RI DEM: Bev Migliore; RI Statewide Planning: Paul Gonsalves; NRCS: Phou Vongkhamdy, Alan Gillespie;.

I. Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2015 and March 31, 2015 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 Emerson Wildes, seconded by Paul Dolan. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Agreements:

A. Geese: Waiting for amendment to extend performance period. Public workshops have been held and field trainings are scheduled.

B. Traceability: 2014-15 agreement ended on 3/31/15. 2015-16 agreement has been signed for same amount and scope.

C. Engineering: Working on two agreements concurrently. Engineering tech has projected that all assignments for both can be completed by 9/30/15. At the end of the quarter estimates will be reviewed to determine if they are accurate. Meeting is scheduled with NRCS on 5/6/15 to discuss.

D. Outreach: 1st round of workshops were held in March. A statewide Soil Health workshop will be held in ERICD on 6/11/15. Future workshop topics will include forestry and an orientations session for new NRCS contract holders.

E. Engineering Handbook: Agreement ended on 3/31/15. Handbook is now available to NRCS staff and will eventually be posted on NRCS website.

F. Contractors List: Agreement amended to extend performance period to 12/31/115 to allow time to hold more trainings to augment list of contractors posted on RISCC website.

IV. Reports

A. NRCS:

- **EQIP and AMA funds fully obligated and additional funding will be requested**
- **Phou will request RWU professor to conduct training for NRCS staff**

on oyster bed restoration and will invite CD staff to attend

- **3 easements have been purchased, additional funding being requested**

- **Additional RCPP funding available**

- **Phou requested that CD's submit a written proposal for an agreement in which CD's would write RMS plans**

B. NRICD: Written report distributed.

C. RC & D: Coverts program being held May 1-2. Preliminary meetings have been held to discuss Small Scale Forestry to be focused on 4 SRICD towns.

D. SRICD: Written report distributed.

E. RIACD. RMS plans will be and NRCS priority over the next 6-12 months. Long Island Sound RCPP project received waiver and will be funded for 40+% for Technical Assistance.

F. ERICD: Written report distributed.

G. DEM: Ag Day will be held on 5/28

H. Statewide Planning: There will be a hearing in May on Solid Waste Management Plan. Water Quality Management Plan is approximately 75% complete.

V. Old Business:

A. FFOS/NRCS Plans

- **Agreement for CD's to write NRCS RMS plans will be pursued and plans developed would exceed FFOS farm conservation plan requirements**

- **The RI Ag Partnership has \$5000-\$10,000 available to fund analysis of formula which determines farm values**

B. Strategic Planning/Legislative Changes: First planning session was held on April 3. CD feedback

on core values requested. Next session is scheduled for 5/5/15.

C. ERICD Board Status: A motion was made to appoint Nancy Parker Wilson as an ERICD Director was made by Paul Dolan, seconded by Clarkson Collins: motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business:

A. Roger Williams University: Maria met with President who was enthusiastic about pursuing relationship with the CD's.

A motion to adjourn was made at 12:14 by Emerson Wildes, seconded by Ken Ayars. Motion carried unanimously.