

# **Northern RI Conservation District**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, August 10, 2004**

**4:00 pm**

**Ed Baker's home in Matunuck**

**Ed called the meeting to order at 3:55 pm.**

**In attendance were:**

**Directors-Ed Baker, Norm Hammond, Bill Colburn, Jean Lynch and Paul Dolan–**

**Staff-Gina DeMarco and Wendy Hoyle – Guest-Valerie Failla**

**Absent were:**

**Associate Directors-Cathryn MacDonald, Marc Tremblay and Eugene Pepper**

### **I. Minutes**

**Motion was made to accept the July 7th meeting minutes.**

**Paul/Norm Unanimous**

## **II. Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's and financial reports were distributed, showing we have just enough

funds to make it to the end of September.

Ed has spoken to Jim Riordon, DEM, about payment of funds from the Phase II

project. Towns should be receiving 80% of funds from DEM soon. Ed will check

with the Town of Gloucester about reimbursement of part of the funds.

Motion was made to continue to pursue Citizens Bank about a line of credit.

Paul/Jean

Discussion ensued. We will also check with Dexter Credit Union about a line of

credit. Vote was taken-Unanimous

## **III. Old Business**

### **a. Scituate Reservoir Education Program**

-Gina will be meeting with Rich Blodgett, Chris and Val from SNEFCI and

Kris Stuart on Tuesday, August 17th. This meeting will be reviewing projects

for the coming year.

**-We welcomed Val to the district meeting. She is considering becoming an associate director.**

**-A draft of the calendar with the poster contest winners was passed around.**

**-The August business outreach newsletter has been completed and will be sent out shortly.**

**-We are still considering what to do for a water festival this year. We may still have it with Scituate Art Festival or set up a separate water festival.**

**-Under the Providence Water contract SNEFCI will be holding woodscaping**

**workshops for the community. The first one is scheduled for September 29th at**

**the Scituate Community House. At that time, SNEFCI will take a survey to**

**see how to proceed with the workshops for the coming year.**

**-We are working with Kris Stuart, Southern District, to develop storm water**

**management training for municipal workers. This project is also funded under**

**the contract with Providence Water.**

**-We discussed forming an education subcommittee that would include other**

**partners to expand our education outreach.**

**-Gina brought up the need for up-front money for the Scituate program-for**

**mailings, supplies, etc.**

**Motion was made to table any further discussion on this situation.**

**Paul/Bill**

**Unanimous**

#### **b. EPA Grant Application**

**We are still waiting to hear from EPA regarding our grant application.**

### **IV. Reports**

#### **a. RIACD**

**Jean will contact Mark Adelman from Governor Carcieri's office to request**

**information about the Narragansett Bay Commission and supply information**

**about what the district is doing for education and outreach.**

#### **b. RC&D**

**The Council will be meeting at Ed's on August 23rd.**

#### **c. RDC**

**Ed reported that they have been working with 4 dairy farmers on the milk initiative.**

## **V. New Business**

### **a. Annual Dinner**

**-We discussed award recipients for this year's dinner. They include:**

**Ø Teacher of the Year – Mrs. Amanda O'Grady-North Scituate Elementary**

**Gina read a brief summary on how she uses the education materials in**

**her classroom.**

**Ø Farmer of the Year – Kevin Bouthillette, Blackbird Farm in Smithfield**

**His name was supplied by Mike Merrill for his conservation practices.**

**Ø Volunteer of the Year – Ray Rivet-one of our volunteers who comes into the office when needed.**

**Ø Partner of the Year – undisclosed at this time.**

**Motion was made to accept these award recipients. Norm/Bill Unanimous**

**-We discussed possible dates and restaurants and/or places to hold the dinner.**

**Paul will check with Chopmist Hill Inn about using their facility. We will also**

**check with the Scituate Community House. Thursday, November 4th looks like**

**the best date at this time depending on availability of the facilities.**

## **b. Future District Plans**

**We discussed what we should do if we do not receive the EPA grant. We need**

**to find other ways to obtain funding.**

**Some ideas were:**

**§ combining with a RIFCO event and sell native plants**

**§ other grants, but a majority of grants require matching funds**

**We also discussed how we could diversify. Some possible projects would be**

**doing backyard conservation workshops in towns we have not typically reached**

**out to and reiterated the need for publicity.**

**Judy emailed Gina about holding a tour with NRCS for board members, staff**

**and local legislators in the northern district. We need to get a consensus of the**

**best day for this. Gina will contact Judy when she returns.**

## **VI. Other**

**-Big E – Ed asked for volunteers for the Team USDA booth. Gina and Paul are**

**interested in going. The fair starts September 17th and goes for 3 weeks.**

**-Joe Bachand called about the work being done on Buck and Durfee Hill and needs**

**the districts assistance in providing packets for bidders. The district will receive**

**\$50/packet that goes out to the bidders. He is looking for a subcommittee to open**

**the bids after the deadline-Paul and Ed volunteered.**

**Motion was made to assist NRCS in this bidding process. Paul/Jean Unanimous.**

**-It was discussed whether the districts could contribute less money to the**

**Association since each district is having financial difficulties. The Association has**

**a little over \$3,400 in the account at this time. RIACD will provide a budget for the**

**coming year and will review their need.**

**Motion was made to adjourn at 5:30 pm. Bill/Jean Unanimous**