

Northern RI Conservation District

17 Smith Avenue, Greenville, RI 02828

(401) 949-1480

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 1, 2004

7:00 PM

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

In attendance were:

**Directors-Norm Hammond, Bill Colburn, Paul Dolan and Ed Baker –
Associate Directors-Cathryn MacDonald and Marc Tremblay –
NRCS-Mike Merrill – Staff-Gina DeMarco and Wendy Hoyle.**

Absent were:

**Director-Jean Lynch – Associate Directors-Eugene Pepper and
Carolyn Weymouth**

I. Minutes

**Motion to accept the August 10th meeting minutes. Paul/Norm
Unanimous**

II. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's and August expense reports were distributed. It was reported that

Citizens Bank will not extend a line of credit to the district; they are not familiar with

the quasi-public status. Dexter Credits does not offer lines of credit.

The letter of intent has been sent to DEM from the legislative finance committee.

Providence Water has agreed to invoice large expense items up front rather than reimburse.

Motion was made to accept the reports. Paul/Norm Unanimous

III. Old Business

a. Scituate Watershed Education Program

-Billboard Campaign-We are looking at Long Island's billboard campaign that

had such a great impact. DEM helped track this down for us. We will have 4

slogans twice a month for 2 months at the Lamar Billboard near IGA on Route 6.

We are able to use the Long Island product for our use also.

-AWEsome-We will be offering the teacher training course this

year. The

teachers are able to receive 3 credits towards their masters when they take this

training done by Denise Burgess-Poyer from URI. Letters to the teachers to set

us this training will be going out shortly.

-Water Quality Workshop will be held Thursday, October 21st at Ponaganset

High School.

-Woodscaping Workshop will be held Wednesday, September 29th at the

Scituate Community House. SNEFCI is conducting the workshop with hopes

of having consecutive workshops throughout the year.

-The 2005 calendar is in the final stages and ready to print.

-A signature was needed for the billboard credit application in the amount of

\$3,500 so we do not have to prepay.

Motion was made to sign this credit application. Ed/Norm Unanimous

Ed presided over the meeting.

b. Future Plans

-We discussed what future projects the district can be involved in for this year.

We are going ahead with working on a rain/butterfly garden package for the

seedling sale and we need to see how we can outreach to the urban areas with

this concept. We discussed being at the Flower Show in February. WHIP may

get involved in butterfly gardens in the future.

A subcommittee will be forming to work on this. Those interested are: Mike,

Paul, Cathy, Val and Wendy.

-Farm Tour

We will be having our farm tour of Providence County on Friday, October 1st.

We will be inviting local legislators to this tour and this is open to the directors.

It was decided to have the tour from 9-1 including lunch and we could continue

the tour for anyone who wishes to continue. Mike reviewed a list of possible

farms to tour. It was suggested that we also invite Ken Ayars.

-Jean, as a member of the Association, is writing a letter to Governor Carcieri

via Mark Adelman and Governor Garrahy with information about what the

districts are doing throughout the state in reducing non-point

source pollution.

-Jean will be meeting with Johnston's financial director requesting funding to the

Northern District.

-We discussed including NRCS information with the Neighbor to Neighbor

packets. Gina will speak to Steve regarding this.

c. Annual Dinner

We reviewed our choices of either holding the dinner at a restaurant or having a

pig roast. We would like to have 'Invasive Species' for a special topic this year.

Suggestions were made on whom to contact for a speaker.

Another topic that was

suggested was to have Andy (NRCS) speak on 'Eelgrass Restoration'. We

discussed trying to have a press release for the dinner.

Motion was made to have the dinner at The Pines Restaurant in North Smithfield.

Norm/Paul Unanimous

Motion was made to charge \$20 per person and have the dinner on Friday,

November 5th at 6:00 pm. Norm/Paul Unanimous

d. Pawtucket Rain Garden Potential

We did not receive the EPA grant that would fund this project. Cathryn has agreed to go ahead and do this project in Pawtucket. She has spoken to 2 teachers who are excited about working with her. We discussed applying for small grants, \$2,000-\$4,000 to assist in obtaining the supplies needed. Teachers are also trying to obtain donations from Home Depot. Other suggestions made were to approach Hasbro, Pawtucket Credit Union and other businesses in the area for funds. We hope to use the Max Reed Memorial Field near the school for this project, but would need permission to do so. Betsy Dake, DEM, supports this program and has passed on the information to Jim Riordan to review for a possible 319 grant. Paul suggested we speak to the city forester, Tom Willet about the project.

IV. Reports

a. Chair

Dexter has stepped down from his position as RC&D coordinator. He

is taking a biologist detail for Andy for a few months. Eric Shearer will be working a few hours a week as RC&D coordinator.

b. NRCS

-Mike distributed the August conservation report.

-They are working on property in Foster to assist in the management of invasive species.

-They are also working on property in Gloucester restoring grassland habitat for vegetation and birds. They are also assisting them with their beef cows and invasive species management.

-Pocasset River-Joel, NRCS engineer, and Joe are finishing the mapping for this and are putting together a subcommittee for the end of the month.

-Durfee and Buck Hill Mash Restorations went out to bid. We will be opening bids on Wednesday September 5th.

-Cranston Farm Fest-On September 15th, the West Bay Land Trust is putting together the farm fest with area farms. Farms include The Good Earth, Confreda

Farms, Pippin Orchard, Pippin Nursery and the Urban Edge Farm.

We have

been invited to have a display there and this could be a great opportunity to

outreach to the community.

-Conservation Security Program-NRCS is working on getting this program in

RI. This program is a green payment that recognizes good conservation

practices. They will be starting with orchards, pastures and haylands.

-NRCS is working on a canoe launch at Donigian Park on Valley Street.

-Cooperative Working Agreement-NRCS wants to move ahead with developing

this agreement with the district. Joe had started on this before he left as district

conservationist, but no one is able to find this. NRCS feels they need to end the

lease on the copier in our office. This will be a hardship, but we will need to

come up with alternatives. We need to meet to work on the agreement.

c. RC&D

Brian Wolfenden is now acting President of the council. Ralph has taken a job in

Florida. They council recently held their meeting at Ed's house for chowder and clam cakes.

d. RIACD

There is no meeting planned at this time.

e. Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

There next meeting is September 7th.

f. RIFCO

-They held their first workshop on their wood lot in Foster on Forest Stewardship

Plans funded through the FLEP program. There were 20-25 people in

attendance, several new to the workshops.

-The RI Tree Farm Annual Fall Tour will be October 23rd at Wright's Farm in East Greenwich.

-RIFCO will be having their annual dinner mid November.

-A Wood Forest Product Expo is being planned. They are in the process of looking for co-sponsors.

g. District Manager

-We received a letter from IRS stating that we owe them for previous withholding taxes from the year 2002. We should be exempt from this and

will proceed to acquire the right letters stating this.

-Greenwave Pilot Project-We were invited to have input into this project that

uses ocean waves for energy.

-There will be an erosion control workshop on September 17th in Worcester, MA.

-We need have a handicap bathroom in this office. Gina has spoken to Steve and

he is willing to renovate this to handicap assessable.

V. New Business

a. Board Elections

Motion was made to table the elections until the October's meeting. Norm/Bill

Unanimous.

VI. Other

We discussed the possibility of invoicing Providence Water monthly. Gina will

contact Rich Blodget regarding this.

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:40 pm. Bill/Paul Unanimous