

**Northern RI Conservation District
17 Smith Avenue, Greenville, RI 02828
(401) 949-1480**

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

7:00 PM

Jean called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

In attendance were:

Directors-Bill Colburn, Jean Lynch, Norm Hammond and Marc Tremblay – Staff-Gina DeMarco and Wendy Hoyle

Absent were:

Director-Paul Dolan – Associate Directors-Cathryn MacDonald, Ed Baker, Eugene Pepper and Val Failla – NRCS-Mike Merrill

I. Minutes

Motion was made to accept the February 2nd meeting minutes as read. Norm/Marc

Unanimous

II. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's and Financial Reports were distributed.

Motion was made to accept both reports. Bill/Marc Unanimous

Cathy attended Foster's Budget Board meeting requesting additional funds.

Chris Modisette, President of the Scituate Conservation Commission, is working on

getting funding for the district this year.

Jean has a meeting with Johnston's mayor regarding funding.

III. Old Business

a. Scituate Watershed Education Program

-The billboards are ready for April and May showing on Route 6 in Scituate.

The first bill board will coincide with the poster contest's theme regarding

pet waste and follow up with fertilizer use, oil disposal and leakage and

car washing.

-The information on this year's poster contest, 'The Scoop on Poop' has been

distributed. The Education Subcommittee decided wildlife and pet waste is an

important issue.

-Cathy has done a great job with the business bulletins, but is unable to assist

the district with further Scituate projects because she has taken a full time job

teaching at Woonsocket High School. Cathy will continue to work on the rain

garden brochure, which she can do as part of her class curriculum.

-Gina asked the board if we could hire Janet Hammond on a per diem basis to

assist the district with the classroom presentations and the water festival. Janet

has already said she is willing to do this.

Motion was made to hire Janet on a per diem basis and that Norm would not

supervise her. Marc/Bill 3 in favor, Norm abstained.

-The Water Festival will be held at Providence Water on drinking day May 3rd

from 8-2.

-Cathy did complete the business bulletins that consist of a series on septic

systems. The purpose of having a series is to give limited information at a time

so as not to overwhelm the business owners. These

bulletins have been

**reviewed by Lorraine Joubert and Cynthia Gianfrancisco and
waiting to hear**

back from Rich Blodgett.

**-We have gotten a good response from elementary schools
for class**

**presentations. Brown Avenue school has not
responded-Jean will contact**

someone at the school.

b. Pawtucket Rain Garden Update

Cathy has met with Mike to select the plants that will be used.

The BayWAG

**grant is effective as of February 1st and we will need to front
the money. An**

invoice will need to be submitted within 30 days of purchase.

On the day of

**planting, volunteers will be needed. Contact Mike as he will
be leading this**

effort. Hope to be able to plant near the end of May.

c. Seedling Sale

**The brochures have been sent out and were distributed at the
meeting. Volunteers**

will be needed for April 22nd and 23rd.

IV. Reports

a. Chair

Jean is not planning on attending the Legislative Conference in Washington, DC

this year. Senator Chafee has asked the towns if they are in need of any financial

assistance. It was suggested that we invited Senator Chafee's aide to the next

Pocasset Meeting.

b. NRCS

Mike was unable to attend the meeting, but has been working extensively on

WHIP and EQIP contracts. The next Pocasset Meeting will be March 17th at

1:30 pm in the NRCS Conference Room.

c. Envirothon

There will be a meeting next Thursday and an Aquatic Workshop next

Wednesday at 3:00 on the URI campus. A place has been picked for this year's

Envirothon.

d. RI Association of Conservation Districts

-Monday's meeting had to be cancelled and a teleconference

will be set up to

come up with a list of recommendations for the State Committee.

Jean had

**written Jan Reitsma for suggestions for the State Committee,
which he replied**

to.

**-The Association wants to hire an accountant to do 2004 taxes
and will need**

**financial statement, profit and loss statement and balance from the
district. Jean**

will meet with the accountant to file the 990 form.

e. Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

**The council met the night before and has received a grant from
EPA to study**

**the best method of containment at the Allendale superfund site
in Johnston and**

**North Providence. The council will meet with residents in that
area about what**

should be done.

f. Rural Development Council

**March 25th will be the quarterly board meeting. Marc should be
voted in at that**

time to represent the district.

g. RIFCO

They have applied for WHIP funding on their 2nd demo woodlot in West Greenwich.

h. District Manager

-The landlord has approached the district about either raising the rent or paying

the heat. Other tenants pay their own heating costs. He does know we are on a

tight budget and will get what the heating costs have been in the past. The board

rather see the rent raised a bit to include the annual cost of heat. Will get figures

for next meeting.

-Eric Offenberg did an excellent job representing the State Committee before the

House Finance Committee. The finance committee was holding a hearing for all

those who receive grants through DEM. The committee commented on how

much work we are able to do with such little funding.

-Gina will be attending RIC's Waterfest on March 14th. This Waterfest is for

students in the Blackstone area.

-Gina has tried contacting Gregg Breene regarding the Curran Park Project.

Norm will check with Gregg and have him contact Gina.

V. New Business

a. Durfee Hill and Buck Hill Projects

Mike had asked for this to be put on the agenda, but because he was unable to

attend the meeting; the board decided to table until next month.

Motion was made to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Bill/Norm Unanimous