

**Northern RI Conservation District
17 Smith Ave, Greenville, RI 02828
949-1480**

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

7:00 PM

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

In attendance were:

**Directors-Bill Colburn, Norm Hammond, Paul Dolan and Jean Lynch –
Associate Directors-Cathryn MacDonald and Eugene Pepper – NRCS-
Mike Merrill – Staff Gina DeMarco and Wendy Hoyle**

Absent were:

Director-Marc Tremblay – Associate Directors-Ed Baker and Val

Failla.

I. Minutes

**Motion was made to accept the March 2nd meeting minutes.
Norm/Bill Unanimous.**

II. Treasurer's Report

**Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's and Financial
Reports. Bill/Norm
Unanimous**

III. Old Business

a. Scituate Watershed Education Program

**-This year's water festival will be held Tuesday, May 3rd at
the Drinking**

**Water Day activities at Providence Water treatment plant.
The festival's**

**activities will include games that teach about water
conservation and**

**protection. Volunteers are needed for this event from
8:00/8:30 – 1:30/200.**

**-The business bulletin series on maintaining septic systems
has been completed.**

They will go out with a poster of the billboard to local businesses.

-Class presentations started this past Monday at Fogarty Elementary.

-Judging for the poster contest is Tuesday, April 19th at 10:00. This will be

held at the treatment plant and winners will be recognized at the Drinking

Water Day ceremony at the treatment plant.

Jean arrived and presided over the meeting.

b. Pawtucket Rain Garden

The plants are ready to be ordered and need to figure out the costs involved.

The garden will be implemented at the Varieur Elementary School in

Pawtucket. Teachers can attend a workshop from 'Project Wild' and be certified

to apply for grants to assist in garden projects. Audubon is trying to set up

wildlife habitat sites and this may be something we could partnership with.

Cathy will be drafting a set of 10 lessons to be used for the rain garden project.

She is hoping to start the first lesson next week.

Woonsocket High School

would like put in a garden also.

c. Curran Park Project

Gene and Gina have met with Steve Volpe regarding the project. There was

concern about insurance, but FFA has the insurance needed to work on the

project. Greg Breene has been contacted and will be ready to work on this in

the fall. We discussed ordering materials at the end of summer. Greg will be

able to contact Mike for technical/design assistance in the spring or summer

months. The district will receive \$850, which is 15% of the project amount.

DOA is waiting for a signed agreement to give their approval.

Gene will look

into obtaining an agreement form.

d. Seedling Sale

We have received quite a few orders. Volunteers are needed to assist on the

pick up day-Gene will work Saturday-Cathy and Jean will check their calendars.

IV. Reports

a. Chair

-Jean attended the Legislative Conference after Ted asked her to attend. Jean

was very glad she attended and felt she was able to really get to speak with

the Congressmen and their aides and they were very supportive of the districts

endeavors. She was unable to meet with Congressman Kennedy but will try to

contact with him in RI.

-There was a Pocasset River Flood Management Study meeting recently. They

reviewed several suggestions to help alleviate the flood problems. Joe

will be meeting with the Mayor of Johnston. Senators Reed and Chafee asked

how the project is going. NRCS is waiting for funding to continue.

b. NRCS

-An article was submitted to the Observer about the Conservation Securities

Program last week.

-We discussed the problems with arsenic in area orchards

and the Brown

University Campus.

-The GLI held a fencing workshop at URI with about 30 attending. An expert

from NH spoke on the different fencing and their best possible use.

-Ranking is being done on GRP and AMA on Friday and WHIP and EQIP on

Monday.

-CSP is accepting applications from March 28th – May 27th.

There are 10-12

individuals interested in the program so far. This securities program is based on

soil and water quality.

-Jackie has drafted a district cooperative agreement to provide equity between

the districts. NRCS does not want to continue to lease the large copier. We

discussed what other options we have. We will look into the cost of a small

copier. Steve has asked the district to pay for the oil for our heat in the office

or increase the rent. This would increase our budget another \$1,000. It was

recommended that we approach the State Committee to see if we can get

additional assistance towards the rent like the Southern District.

c. Envirothon

There will be a workshop next Wednesday the 13th on forestry and the special topic. There will also be a meeting on the 21st at the site for the competition.

d. Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

The Council is in the process of moving their office. The Council is supporting a metals recycling structure in Johnston. The Johnston Town Council has turned it down. Jean and Jenny will meet with an engineer to obtain all the information they can to report to the Johnston Town Council.

e. RDC

Ed returned to RI for a short time and attended the Rural Development Council meeting. He is happy with all that Gerry is doing.

f. District Manager

-Gina attended a recent MAC meeting. They are trying to get the technical

information into laymen's terms and the WRWC has hired someone to do that.

-The 2nd Annual Northern RI Blackstone Water Festival was held at RIC for

middle and high school students. Gina had a booth there with the watershed model.

V. New Business

a. Durfee Hill and Buck Hill Projects

There has been no update about rebidding the projects. Mike will get the information to the district.

b. Rent Increase

We discussed what we should do about the rent increase or pay our own oil.

Steve would rather we pay for our own oil. If we do, we would be able to

deduct the tax on each bill. We will contact the oil company to set this up.

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Bill/Norm