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**Northern Rhode Island Conservation District**

**17 Smith Avenue - Greenville, RI 02828 - Phone (401) 949-1480 - Fax  
(401) 949-4436**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2005**

**7:00 PM**

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

**In attendance were:**

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

**Absent were:**

**Associate Directors-Ed Baker and Val Failla**

**Jean Lynch needs to leave early, so we will reorganize the agenda if needed to vote on any items before she leaves.**

## **I. Minutes**

**The April 6th meeting minutes were read and a correction was noted-Eugene Pepper was not absent, but had attended that meeting.**

**Motion to accept April 6th meeting minutes as amended.  
Paul/Norm Unanimous**

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

**The Treasurer's and Expense Reports were distributed.  
Motion to accept the reports. Bill/Paul Unanimous**

## **III. Old Business**

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

**-The Water Festival held on Drinking Water Day at the Water Treatment**

**Plant went very well. We had about 10 volunteers assisting with**

**students**

**from schools in Providence, Cranston, Foster and Scituate in several**

**water quality games and activities.**

**The awards ceremony was held in the treatment plant and the Observer and**

**Neighbors newspapers were there to do an article.**

**-The pizza party supplies will be distributed at the schools this week.**

**-There will be a water quality workshop on June 6th at the Brown Avenue**

**school in Johnson.**

**-It was suggested that when we send letters out to towns that we include photos**

**of activities we had in their town.**

#### **b. Rain Garden Project Update**

**The plants have been ordered and will be delivered June 7th.**

**Implementation**

**of the rain garden in Pawtucket will be Wednesday the 8th at 3:00.**

**We just**

**received a check from the Patagonia Grant in the amount of \$3,000.**

**We**

**discussed using this grant money for outreach; including signs and brochures.**

**Gina will check on places for signage.**

**c. Curran Park Project**

**DEM is still looking for information on insurance. Greg Breene will be**

**contacted to write a letter stating the coverage they will using for the 'field day'.**

**d. Seedling Sale Report**

**Preliminary reports look like we netted just over \$4,000, but Wendy will**

**recheck those figure for next month and expressed a deep appreciation for**

**all those who volunteered at the seedling distribution.**

**IV. New Business**

**a. Outreach Position**

**The Scituate Reservoir Watershed Program has about \$10,000 in the grant**

**for education and outreach work. We need assistance with some of the projects**

**that there is not enough time to do. Kate has been asked if she would be**

**willing to assist on some of the publishing projects, such as the business**

**bulletins and Providence Water's annual report. Gina is asking the board if she**

can continue to pursue this and meet with Kate about this. Gina has already

spoken to Rich Blodgett about hiring Kate and he was in agreement.

Motion was made for Gina to meet with Kate for project work on the Scituate

Education Program for \$10,000 or as long as we have the funds to do so. Marc/

Bill. Unanimous

We discussed the best way to pay her-as an employee or consultant.

Motion was made to hire Kate as a contractor based on an hourly rate, not

to exceed the \$10,000. Paul/Marc Unanimous

The board would like Kate to write up a summary of what the project will entail

and the approximate amount of time involved and have this done for the next

meeting. Gina will meet with Kate on May 16th.

#### IV. Reports

##### a. Chair

Jean has written a letter to the State Conservation Committee requesting

the Committee to consider equity of funding to the three districts.

Jean has not received any response from Congressman

**Kennedy.**

**b. NRCS**

**-NRCS hosted the East Regional Technical Workshop in Newport. About**

**100 attendees toured area projects.**

**-There are 3 landowners that are in the CSP and working on the self-assessment**

**workbooks. The deadline for this program is May 27th.**

**-The WHIP and EQIP summary sheets will be available next month.**

**-NRCS have provided buffer plantings for Save the Bay at Fields Point. They**

**looking for volunteers for planting on May 6th and 7th.**

**c. Envirothon**

**Paul reported on the Envirothon-all workshops are done and they are looking**

**for volunteers to assist in setting up on May 18th and also on May 19th.**

**d. Rural Development Council**

**Marc reported that there would be 2 career days on May 10th and 11th.**

**e. RIFCO**

**There will be the first spring workshop on Saturday, May 14th at the**

**Arcadia**

**Management Area at 8:30 am. Information will include: timber harvesting, wildlife and recreation.**

**f. District Manager**

**Gina reported that Nicholas Gorham, as a member of the Separation of Powers House Subcommittee, requested further explanation on how board members come into office. He is concerned that those appointed, are appointed by the State Conservation Committee and then the districts appoint a member to the State Committee.**

**VI. Other**

**The National RC&D office is looking to cut funding to local RC&D offices that have been in existence for over 30 years. NRCS is providing funding for an interim coordinator to complete projects. If there is no federal funding for RC&D, they will have to close there doors.**

**Motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Bill/Marc Unanimous**