

**Northern RI Conservation District
17 Smith Ave, Greenville, RI 02828**

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 6, 2005

7:00 PM

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

In attendance were:

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

Absent were:

**Associate Directors-Cathryn MacDonald, Ed Baker, Eugene Pepper
and Val Failla**

I. Minutes

Motion to accept June 1st meeting minutes with the following corrections: (1) III b-

change ceremony date to June 17th – (2) IV c-change Narrangansett III to

Narragansett. Bill/Marc

Vote-Unanimous

Mike asked to have NRCS report be moved up to after Treasurer's Report. Motion was

made to do this. Paul/Marc Vote-Unanimous

II. Treasurer's Report

FY 04-05 financial report and treasurer's report were distributed.

We discussed

the fact that there was some legislative money remaining for FY 04-05.

Motion was made to have the staff spend the remaining money in a way that would

improve the conference area. Paul/Norm Vote-Unanimous

Paul reported that he presented Jean's letter to the State Committee regarding equity

between the districts. The State Committee voted to assist the Northern District with

emergency rent money for 2 months if needed.

III. NRCS Report

Mike distributed the latest conservation reports. He had project applications to

sign. These projects included farms in the following areas:

-Glocester resident who owns 200 acres-Forest Management Plan and grassland

development.

-Scituate Land Trust-removal of invasive species and brush and grassland

restoration.

-Foster-planting of warm season grasses under WHIP

-Glocester-removal of invasive species

-Burrillville-EQIP project for ag fuel storage replacement

-Under CSP, 4 applications have been received, but NRCS has not identified who

has been funded. They have drafted additional watershed areas that are potentials

for next years funding.

-Rhode Island is one of 6 states that has been selected to pilot a program to designate

conservation technical assistance funds for when landowners sign up for

conservation plans, they will be provided with a self-assessment workbook.

-Mike reviewed how the district should report the rain garden WHIP grant.

IV. Old Business

a. Rain Garden Project

We did receive publicity for the Woonsocket Rain Garden in the Valley Breeze

and the Woonsocket Call. They did a very nice write up about the project.

Betsy Dake, DEM, is very excited about implementing more rain gardens and

would like to propose to her manager a grant opportunity for the northern district

to work on a comprehensive plan for an impaired water body to include rain

garden and outreach and education. One suggestion was Spring Lake in

Burrillville.

Gina showed a brief presentation of pictures taken at the rain gardens. There

may be additional WHIP money in the future to work with schools on rain

gardens. Pawtucket will have their celebration in the fall.

Cathryn will be developing a brochure that will be on our web site.

URI's master gardening program has grant opportunities for rain gardens.

b. Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program

-Gina met with Rich a few weeks ago; we are starting the 2nd year of our 5yr

contract. They discussed working on a stormwater project on the corner of

routes 116 and 101. NRCS will do the design for this project. The role of the

district is to be a liaison between those working on the project, writing grants

and publicity. Providence Water will consider funding the entire project if

additional funds are not available.

-The district has received good feedback from the business bulletins. A packet

will be sent to each legislator in the watershed. We will ask the businesses in

the area to donate a pizza party for the poster contest.

-Rich would like someone from Fuss and O'Neil, who is familiar with GIS, give

a presentation to teachers and high school students on GIS information.

-We have had 1,160 hits on our website since the billboard campaign.

-Gina will meet with Kate next week about working on the final report for

Providence Water and preparing information for the poster contest.

-Gina has received feedback from the homework sheet that she distributes at the

elementary education program. One classroom showed 100% student

participation and 100% parent participation and all indicated that they are

going to change their cleaning habits based on what they learned.

One student

did a presentation before the class on an alternative cleaning method.

c. Curran Park Project

Gina sent the revised proposal to Gene and DEM. Gregg Breene was asking

about payment for the job for FFA; this request will be forwarded to DEM.

d. Buck Hill and Durfee Hill Projects

Some plans have been picked up. There is confusion on the date of opening of

bids meeting-either the 25th or the 27th. Wendy will check with Joe and let board members know.

V. Reports⁶

a. Chair

Jean reported that Mike Sullivan has been confirmed as director of DEM.

b. Envirothon

We discussed having a combined summer meeting with the Envirothon committee at Ed's place in Matunck. It was decided have the meeting on Wednesday, August 3rd, with Envirothon having a 3:00 meeting with district following.

c. RIACD

-Jean received a letter from Congressman Kennedy responding to each issue

Jean addressed in her letter.

-The house has altered funding in the 2006 Farm Bill. The regional meeting

will be in New Jersey this year.

d. Woonsocket River Watershed Council

There has been no meeting recently. Jean took a canoe ride on the Woonasquatucket recently and there will be another opportunity in August.

e. Rural Development Council

There was a meeting recently and they now have a new chair.

f. RIFCO

There will be a workshop Thursday, August 4th at the clear-cut lot. The lot was accomplished by WHIP funds and have received publicity about this project. The purpose is for oak regeneration on one part and wildlife restoration on another area.

g. District Manager

There will be a farewell party for Judy on Thursday, September 1st at the Quidnesset Country Club from 4:30-7:30.

VI. New Business

a. RC&D Correspondence

This request was tabled.

b. Big E 2005 Request

We were asked to contribute to the Big E Team USDA Booth again this year.

Motion was made to pay the \$41.75 contribution under FY 04-05 funds.

Vote-Unanimous

Motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Vote-unanimous

401-949-1480