

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

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 3, 2005

4:00 PM

Paul called the meeting to order at 4:05

In attendance were:

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

Absent were

Associate Directors-Eugene Pepper and Cathryn MacDonald

I. Minutes

Motion was made to accept the July 6th meeting minutes.

Norm/Bill

Vote unanimous

II. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's and financial reports were distributed.

The district has asked the State Committee to consider equity in legislative funding

for all the districts. The State Committee has asked for each of the districts budgets.

III. Old Business

a. Rain Garden Project

Several press releases were in area newspapers. The Narragansett Bay Journal

also had an article regarding the rain garden.

Gina attended a reception for the environmental groups that received funds from

Patagonia. Patagonia gives 10% of their proceeds to environmental groups.

Cathryn is working on the rain garden brochure and the website info.

St Phillips School has asked for assistance with a rain garden

on school property.

Final reports will be completed within the next couple of weeks.

The State Committee offered to assist the district with the cost of printing the brochures.

b. Curran Park Project

Gina passed on to DEM, the request from Greg Breene asking for funds to allocate to FFA.

c. Buck Hill and Durfee Hill Bidding

Motion was made to accept the July 27th minutes on the opening of the bids.

Norm/Bill Vote was unanimous

Adler Bros won the contract for the projects.

Jean arrived and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

IV. New Business

a. Annual Dinner

The board discussed where they would like to hold the annual dinner this year.

It was decided that The Pines Restaurant is a good choice. The first choice for

a date is October 21st and November 4th as a 2nd choice.

We discussed having a farm tour and choosing a 'Farmer of the Year' and a

'Conservationist of the Year' at that time. A tentative date for the tour is

Monday, October 3rd 12-5.

b. State Committee Marketing Strategy Worksheet

The State Conservation Committee has partnered with Paul Boisvert's from

Johnson and Wales University to provide the districts with a marketing strategy.

Paul will have his students divide into 3 teams, one for each district.

Paul

gave each district a strategy worksheet to help his students get started. The

board was asked to give their comments within a week.

c. Proposed FY 05-06 Budget/Salaries

The FY 05-06 Budget was distributed.

Motion was made for the board to break into executive session to review

salaries. Paul/Norm Vote was unanimous.

Meeting reconvened at 4:45. Employee increases were accepted as recommended effective July 1, 2005.

The Board discussed increasing bonding insurance to cover up to

\$50,000.

Motion was made to increase the bonding insurance to \$50,000.

Paul/Norm

Vote was unanimous

V. Other

-Mike reported that 3 of the 4 applicants for CSP were accepted.

A WHIP application for enhancement was signed.

-RI has been selected to be a part of a conservation pilot program to receive technical assistance funds.

-A feasibility study for the Pawtuxet River has been completed.

Plans to hold public

meetings are in process.

-NRCS is planning a tour with Congressman Kennedy the end of August.

Motion was to adjourn at 5:00 pm. Bill/Norm Vote was unanimous