

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

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 12, 2005

7:00 PM

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

In attendance were:

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

Absent were:

**Directors-Ed Baker and Bill Colburn – Associate Directors-Eugene
Pepper, Val Failla and Carolyn Weymouth**

I. Minutes

Motion was made to accept December 15th meeting minutes.

Norm/Paul Unanimous

II. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's and Financial Reports were distributed.

Motion was made to accept both reports. Paul/Norm Unanimous

III. Old Business

a. Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program

**-There will be our first water quality workshop in Western Johnston
June 6th**

**at the Brown Avenue School. We will be partnering with Alyson
McCann and**

**DOH from the home*a*syst program. Jean will be doing the
introduction.**

**-We have received videos of our PS Announcement that will run in
conjunction**

**with our billboard campaign that kicks off in April. We were able to
use the**

**PSA from the Long Island Campaign, putting in our logos. This
was done by a**

**company in Washington. We are now looking for television stations
that will**

**run the public service announcement. It was suggested to contact
Channel 10-**

they have a watershed report. We could also talk to Jeanne about other possibilities.

-EPA is co-sponsoring "After the Storm" on the weather channel; an hour-long

special about watersheds beginning Sunday, January 16th at 7:30 pm.

Additional showings are scheduled for: Tuesday, Jan. 18th 7:30 pm, Thursday,

Jan. 20th at 12:30 pm, Friday, Jan. 21st, at 7:30 pm, Saturday, Jan. 22nd, at 1:30

pm, Saturday, Jan. 22nd, at 4:30 pm, Sunday, Jan. 23rd, at 12:30 pm and

Sunday, Jan. 23rd, at 5:30 pm.

-Gina has finished compiling information to be added onto the web site for the

land water connection link that will include information and maps on non point

source pollution and links to Providence Water. This is part of the billboard

campaign. Once Mouse Works has this information set up on the web, we will

receive a draft to approve.

-Teachers in the watershed have been invited to participate in the AWESome

curriculum workshop. We have received a response from one teacher; this

teacher will try to get another 3 to participate. If we are unable to do so, the one

teacher can attend the workshop the Pawcatuck Watershed Assoc is doing.

-Gina is co-chairing the RI Drinking Water Week Committee with Sue Andrade

of the Bristol County Water Authority. The first meeting will be held this

Thursday at 10:00 in the NRCS conference room. Drinking Water Week is held

the first week in May.

-We are considering doing the Water Festival during the opening day of Scituate's

Little League. We discussed other options that may be a more appropriate time

to hold the water festival. It was agreed that doing the festival during the

summer recreation program at area parks will be a better alternative and also

to do this during the Drinking Water Day program at Providence Water. Gina

will contact area parks and recreation about including the festival in their

activities.

-Kate is interested in working on projects from her home if the board agrees. She would be able to assist Gina in the Water Festival. The Board agreed to pursue this further.

b. Pawtucket Rain Garden Update

We are waiting for the outcome of the grants that we applied for-Bay WAG

Grant, WHIP and Patagonia Grant. Cathy hopes to be working on this project

April through June with about 12 classes. Teaches are excited about this project.

When attending a buffers workshop, Art Gold commented on the necessity

of urban rain gardens to supplement coastal buffers. It was suggested that we

could ask for his assistance in this project.

c. Specific Agreement Between Districts and NRCS

There has been no information from Jackie concerning a spreadsheet to assist

in this matter. Tabled.

d. Notary

Gina has gotten information regarding becoming a notary as

per request of the

board at the December's meeting. All the paperwork has been completed and the

cost will be \$80 for 4years.

Motion was made to have Gina apply to be a notary and pay the \$80. Norm/Paul

Discussion ensued regarding the necessity of this and is it worth the cost.

Vote was taken-unanimous to pursue Gina becoming a notary.

e. RIACD Appointment

We discussed a replacement for Ed on the association. Val was interested,

but wanted more information before making the decision. We will get Val

information on the Association.

IV. Reports

a. Chair

Jean is planning to compose a letter to Governor Carcieri on the important

issues the Districts are involved in and also outline projects for the coming

year.

b. NRCS

-Mike distributed the December 2004 Conservationist Report.

-There was a large number of applications for WHIP, EQIP and AMA. There were 49 applications from the Northern District. NRCS hopes to have the results of those applications being accepted by early April.

-There will be a workshop on the Conservation Security Program (CSP) on

Tuesday, January 25th at 6:00 in the Laurel Grange. This program will

benefit farmers in the Scituate/Pocasset River Watershed. A map was

distributed indicating the area this program includes. Mike is sending out

postcards to potential farmers. NRCS has not received training yet and hopes to before this meeting.

-NRCS has not received any applications for the GRP program. This an

easement program that purchases development rights from private landowners.

NRCS will still accept applications if anyone knows of someone interested in

the program.

-On Wednesday, January 26th at 1:30 there will be a meeting regarding the Pocasset River Flood Plain Management Study.

d. Envirothon

The Aquatics Workshop was cancelled due to weather and needs to be rescheduled. There will be an Envirothon meeting next week at Chopmist.

e. RIACD

-A meeting was held December 14th. Election of Offices were taken and the

offices are the same as the previous year.

-The next meeting will be January 26th.

-Vote was taken to amend the by-laws to have the Election of Offices in November.

-There was discussion that the Association needs Southern to provide a financial

report and show their ability to provide their match for the food security grant

they have received through the Association. Jean is hoping to meet with Alicia

soon to review this matter.

f. Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

-The Council held their meeting on Tuesday, the 11th.

-There was concern about an amendment to DEM's by-laws concerning

water quality in business areas.

-The office needs to move out of their present location. They have no

funding and no place to go at this time.

g. RIFCO

They will have a workshop on Saturday, January 29th at 9:00 am on the

demo woodlot.

h. District Manager

-The NE Leadership Conference is March 3rd and 4th in Portsmouth, NH.

-Judy has asked the districts to apply for the Conservation Partnership

Initiative Grant. This grant would be between \$50,000 - \$200,000 and

would be to prioritize watersheds that need buffers. A meeting is planned

for January 18th, 1-3pm.

-We discussed the district being involved in forming watershed groups in

the Blackstone River area. The issue with the milfoil on area lakes is a serious problem and we debated what options are available and what the district can do to be of assistance.

-Gina brought up what the policy should be for snow days. It was decided

that if anyone feels they can not get into work, a vacation day can be taken.

Time also could be made up during the week.

V. New Business

a. Director Recruitment

Ed would like to step down from being a full director to an associate director.

He would only do this if someone were willing to replace him. Marc is

interested in becoming a director and was given his nomination papers for

signatures. An article will go in the journal for nominations indicating the

election will be held on February 2nd.

VI. Other

We have an extra air conditioner in the office and would like to donate this to

a partner. It was suggested that we contact the RI Tree Council.

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:15 pm. Paul/Norm Unanimous