

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

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 4, 2006

7:00 PM

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

In attendance were:

Directors-Jean Lynch, Norm Hammond, Paul Dolan and Marc Tremblay – Associate Director-Eugene Pepper – NRCS Tim Pindell – Staff-Gina DeMarco and Wendy Hoyle.

Absent were:

Director-William Colburn – Associate Directors-Ed Baker, Cathryn MacDonald and Valerie Failla.

I. Minutes

Motion was made to accept the December 14th meeting minutes.

Paul/Norm

Vote was unanimous

II. Treasurer's Reports

The treasurer's and financial reports were distributed. Motion was made to

accept the reports. Paul/Norm Vote was unanimous

The board discussed the issue of the Southern District no longer having to pay

rent. RC& D will share office space with southern and NRCS will pay the rent for

that office. Southern District will provide administrative assistance to RC&D.

The Southern District has received additional funds for their rent in the past and

is willing to split the rental payment between the 3 districts. After ½ year expenses,

there will be \$5,900 remaining for each district. The State Committee has asked the

districts to provide them with an overhead expenditure report to make a decision on

how the remaining funds should be used.

III. Old Business

a. Scituate Watershed Education Program

Stormwater Project-Packets of information will be sent to businesses and

residents in the project area asking them if they would be interested in

stormwater protection opportunities on their land. Those interested will be

working with Gina and Holly Burdett-URI, deciding on what projects they can

do. One of the projects they can do is a rain garden.

b. Rain Gardens

There was discussion on how we can outreach to municipalities to install rain gardens.

The board discussed how the district should proceed with selling rain garden

packages at the 2006 seedling sale. It looks like the cost of a package will be

between \$50-\$75. It was felt this was too expensive for our sale. It was decided

to include information on rain gardens in the seedling sale brochure

with

information on how landowners can receive a full brochure showing them how

to design a rain garden and providing information on where to go for these

specialized plants.

It was suggested that the district outreach to landscape architects, RI Nursery

Landscape Assoc and other entities to providing this information to them on rain

gardens. RINL usually have a winter meeting; this may be a good opportunity to

have a booth with the information. Paul will let the district know about the

meeting.

c. Curran Park Project

The district is still waiting for information on insurance. Gina has spoken to

two insurance companies regarding this and they are unable to provide the

insurance needed. It was asked if FFA knows who owns and will be running the

backhoe. Eugene will look into this further. The board will speak to Mike about

the students being earth team volunteers for this project.

d. RIACD Dues

It was presented to the district at the last meeting that the Association is looking for \$1,500 from each district. There was no vote taken in December.

Motion was made to continue to support the RIACD in the amount \$1,500 and would like reports on conferences presented to the district. Marc/Paul Vote was unanimous.

IV. Reports

a. Chair

The Legislative Conference will be the last week of March and Jean plans on attending.

b. NRCS

Tim distributed the latest conservation report. NRCS is looking for ways to work together. Tim invited everyone to the workshop on the Avian Influenza on January 11th at 10:00.

c. Envirothon

Laura Lafroda is working at organizing the committee and 3 workshops have been planned.

d. RIACD

The next meeting will be Monday, January 9th at 7:30pm.

e. Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

Jane Sherman has decided to step down as president of the council, but will continue to stay involved. Those on the council will take turns as president.

Don Burns is the new president.

The Council has received a TAG grant to interpret the results of the CADMUS report into everyday language. Gina has reviewed this and has sent comments back to the council.

f. RDC

There will be a meeting at the end of next week at URI. Gerry is helping Chris with the transition to RC&D.

g. RC&D

RC&D will be having an open house Thursday, January 12th. This will be an

informational session. Harriet Powell is president of the council and they are currently looking for a treasurer. Gerry and Chris are working on projects and have just completed an updated version of the composting brochure and would like to develop one for homeowners.

h. RIFCO

There will be 4 woodland owner workshops on Saturday mornings at the Woody Lowden Recreation Center.

Their annual dinner went very well and they raised over \$1,200 at their silent auction. Cathy Sparks spoke on forest diseases.

i. District Manager

Marc and Gina attended the Gloucester Business Association Expo on January 18th.

The town funding requests went out the end of December.

Pare Engineer in Lincoln has a proposal in to the Div of Purchase and DEM for

the Scituate Reservoir Watershed Community project and has asked the district

to provide assistance in organizing meetings in the community.

They wish to

hold 23 meetings. The board discussed what should be charged for this service.

Motion was made for the district to partner with Pare Engineering in facilitating

23 meetings in the amount of \$9,200. Any additional meetings needed, Pare

would be charged \$50/hour plus expenses. Paul/Norm.

Discussion-Pare has not decided whether they will apply for this proposal yet.

The district would need to be open to work with other engineering firms if they

approach us.

Vote was unanimous.

V. New Business

a. NRCS Cooperative Agreement

A copy of the cooperative agreement between the Northern District and NRCS

was distributed. This agreement spells out NRCS' assistance to the district.

Motion was made to sign this contract between NRCS and the Northern District.

Norm/Marc Vote was unanimous.

b. 2007 NACD Northeast Regional Meeting

The district board discussed whether they thought RI could host the 2007

Regional Meeting. Jean reviewed what was involved in hosting the meeting.

After much discussion it was decided that we do not have the staff to do this

properly. If Connecticut decides to host the meeting we can provide assistance

to them.

VI. Other

The three districts will have a booth at the 2006 League of Cities and Towns

Exposition on Thursday January 26th at the Crown Plaza in Warwick.

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:20 pm. Marc/Norm Unanimous