

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

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

7:00 PM

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

In attendance were:

**Directors-Jean Lynch, Bill Colburn, Marc Tremblay, Norm Hammond
and Paul Dolan –**

**Associate Directors-Cathryn MacDonald and Eugene Pepper –
NRCS-Michael Merrill – Staff-Gina DeMarco and Wendy Hoyle.**

Absent were:

Associate Directors-Val Failla and Edward Baker

I. Minutes

Motion to accept the February 1st meeting minutes. Paul/Norm

Vote was unanimous.

II. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's and expense reports were distributed.

Motion was made to contribute the budgeted amount of \$500 to the Envirothon.

Marc/Paul

Discussion-The board would like to contribute an additional \$500 to the Envirothon.

Amendment to the motion was to contribute the budgeted amount of \$500 to the

Envirothon at this time and look at the end of 3rd quarter spending at the April

meeting to decide if the district is able to give them an additional \$500. Marc/Paul.

Vote was unanimous.

Jean will put out a challenge to the other 2 districts to match our \$500 giving to the

Envirothon.

III. Old Business

a. Scituate Watershed Education Program

-A workshop will be held March 14th for the residents in the area of the

stormwater project. Holly Burdett, URI Cooperative Extension and being part

of the Healthy Landscapes program, will take part in this meeting. The board is

invited to this meeting. Cindy Gianfrancesco of the Scituate Conservation

Commission is also involved and has contacted area business to get them

involved. Several businesses have already agreed to take part in this project:

Famous Pizza Sugrue Engineering, Dr. O'Neil-veterinarian, and Northland

Gutters. The stormwater treatment project will be going in across from Famous

Pizza.

-Kate has worked on poster contest informational packets for the teachers and

the business newsletter.

-Cathryn has started going into the classrooms this week.

b. Rain Garden Project

The brochure has been printed and is also available on our website.

The State

Committee has agreed to pay \$300 towards the printing of the brochure. NRCS

has no information yet as to funding of the rain gardens.

c. Curran Park Project

The Division of Administration has decided that the project should go out for

bid again, because FFA was unable to meet the insurance requirements. Marc

will speak to Willie Wright about the possibility of Willie bidding on the project.

d. Computer Opportunity

The board discussed the need for a new computer. The computer that was

originally offered to the district from USDA is not from NRCS. Mark from ITS

offered a used computer to the office to make it easier for him to fix from his

office. Mark has not been consistent in being available to fix our computers and

NRCS has no part in this and we are not sure who would be paying for this

service. It was suggested the district look at a Dell Optiplex business computer.

This will be researched and the board will look at the budget in April.

Motion was made not to accept the computer from ITS, since the board first

thought this was coming from NRCS and did not have all the information at the last meeting. Marc/Paul Vote was unanimous.

IV. Reports

a. Chair

The Association has received a plaque on behalf of the districts and the association for making our quotas to NACD. Jean asked if the Northern District would be willing to display at the office. Jean has continued to try to meet with the Mayor of Johnston and has not been successful so far. Harriet has asked Jean, as congressional liaison for the association, to write a letter of support for RC&D, since their funding is in danger of being cut off.

b. NRCS

Mike distributed the latest conservation report and reported on how much funding they have received for their programs. On March 15th they will know who will receive funding.

There are farmers in the Northern District that are taking part

in the RI Beef

Marketing.

This is the first year for the Conservation Initiative Grants (CIG) that takes

money from EQIP and uses funds for implementation of innovative projects.

Agencies can apply, such as the districts, RIFCO and the state and the deadline

is March 31st.

The aquatics workshop for the Envirothon is March 5th.

c. Envirothon

The committee held a meeting earlier in the day and have lined up judges for

the Envirothon competition.

Paul's workshop on forestry and wildlife will be March 28th. It looks like there

be 10-12 teams this year.

d. RIACD

March 13th will be the Leadership Conference in NH and Tom will be attending.

Jean needs to work on the 990 tax form.

The association has voted not to have board insurance.

Tom has asked the districts to respond about holding a political workshop on

Thursday, April 13th. 5 responded that they would be interested in attending the workshop.

e. RC&D

There will be a meeting held at the Laurel Grange next week for farmers

interested in the wool initiative-Rhody Warm. The project will take excess

sheep's wool and make blankets for sale.

They have just completed revising their composting brochure and will be

developing one for homeowners.

RC&D is involved in the Forestry and Wood Expo.

f. RDC

The council is working with the beef initiative and the Forestry and Wood Expo.

g. RIFCO

The Forestry and Wood Expo will be held April 7th & 8th at the CCRI campus in

Warwick. NRCS has sponsored an event and will also have a display.

Several businesses will also set up displays. The Lt. Governor will be

moderating a panel of speakers at the business luncheon. The State Committee

will be contacted about covering the cost of a booth for the three districts and

sponsoring a coffee break.

V. New Business

a. Plan of Work/Proposed Budget

The 2006-2007 draft Plan of Work and proposed budget were distributed for

review at the April meeting.

b. Strategic Plan

It has been over 5 years since the district had developed a strategic plan.

It was discussed whether this is needed and who could facilitate the meeting and

if NRCS would have funds to pay a facilitator. This would need to be done at a

meeting other than the regular board meeting. We will continue discussing this

at the April meeting.

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:30 pm. Bill/Paul. Vote was unanimous.