

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

MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2006

7:00 PM

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

In attendance were:

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

Absent were:

Associate Directors-Valerie Failla and Edward Baker

I. Minutes

Motion was made to accept the March 1st meeting minutes as submitted. Norm/Paul

Vote was unanimous.

II. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's and expenditure reports were distributed. Gina also distributed an

updated proposed budget for fiscal year 2006-2007 and projected expenses for the

remaining of fiscal year 2005-2006. These reports were reviewed.

Motion was made to contribute an additional \$500 to the Envirothon for this year

only. Marc/Bill Vote was unanimous

Motion was made to purchase a new computer up to \$1,200. Paul/Norm Vote was

unanimous.

III. Old Business

a. Scituate Watershed Education Program

-Cathy is visiting the classrooms for the education program.

-Posters are being collected for the poster contest-‘What Is Driving Water

Quality’. One poster will be chosen to be displayed on a billboard.

-Stormwater Project-The signs have been ordered for landowners who participate

in this project. Brownie Woodworking is building stands for literature that will

be displayed in three of the local businesses.

-There is a need for 12 volunteers for the Water Festival on Drinking Water Day

at Providence Water treatment plant on May 9th. Gina has written Roylene for

assistance at the Water Festival.

b. Rain Garden Project

A one-page grant application has been submitted to EPA-Healthy Communities

Grant. The proposal is hold workshops and suggest that towns revise their

development ordinance to include rain gardens as an option for local zoning

boards. NRCS is not able to provide assistance for rain gardens from

WHIP funds. Jean noted that when visiting the Congressmen in Washington, they all showed an interest in the rain gardens. The board asked Jean to request a letter of support from Senator Reed for the Rain Garden to EPA. Betsy Dake, DEM, is very interested in supporting rain garden projects. The board feels it may be more beneficial to approach the planning boards rather than the zoning boards. It may also be wise to reach out to developers and landowners. This may fit in with Phase II and will contact Scott Millar regarding how we could work together. The Valley Breeze interviewed Gina on the rain gardens.

c. Curran Park

DEM has put the project out for rebid. Marc reported that Willy Wright will contact Eugene about the project.

d. Seedling Sale

The sale is going well and we have received about 220 orders. Wendy is looking for volunteers for the distribution days-April 21st and

22nd. Paul, Marc

and Norm volunteered for Friday and Jean, Cathryn, Bill and Eugene volunteered for Saturday.

e. Plan of Work/Proposed Budget FY 06-07/Strategic Plan

The board reviewed the Plan of Work for 2006-2007.

Motion was made to approve the plan of work as amended.

Paul/Norm Vote

was unanimous.

The proposed budget for 2006-2007 was reviewed.

Motion was made to accept the proposed budget. Paul/Marc. Vote was

unanimous.

The board discussed whether a strategic planning session was needed. It was

decided to have a 1-4 hour planning session on a Monday 4-8 pm in late May or

June. Gina will ask Jen West from Narragansett Bay program for her assistance

with this.

IV. Reports

a. Jean reported that the NACDNE was looking for comments on their regional

survey report and plan of work.

CT is planning on hosting the 2007 NE Regional Conference.

Jean presented materials on the districts, NRCS and RC&D to RI's congressional delegates.

Jean attended the Southern District board to report on the legislative conference.

Roylene would like to work with the district on projects.

b. RI State Conservation Committee

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 26th.

c. RI Association of Conservation Districts

Rudy Hempe of the Southern District has been voted in as a board member.

The checking account has \$4,2048.21 and the Northern District is the only one that paid their dues to the association this year.

The association has been working on revising their by-laws.

d. NRCS

Mike distributed the conservation report.

Mike will also be acting as Eastern District conservationist until they find someone else to take this on.

A new position has been advertised for a supervisory soil

conservationist.

NRCS will be reviewing EQIP and WHIP applications.

Pawtuxet River fish passage has been approved by DEM.

e. Envirothon

There will be 10-12 teams this year. The last meeting was at the site and they are

looking for volunteers.

f. RC&D

RC&D will have their next meeting next week. Chris is reviewing the by-laws.

Ed would like to step down from the RC&D board.

g. Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

The council is working on issues that concern them at Centredale and Allendale

Manors.

h. Rural Development Council

There will be a meeting at the end of the month. RDC partnered with RIFCO on

the Forestry and Wood Expo.

i. RIFCO

About 170 students attended the Forestry and Wood Expo on

Friday for Career

Day. Paul gave a presentation on forestry careers.

Governor Carcieri spoke at the luncheon, with Mike Sullivan introducing the

Governor. Keynote speaker was from Logger Magazine and spoke on industry

trends. About 75 attended the expo on Saturday.

j. District Manager

Legislative Day will be Wednesday, May 3rd. We will be at the State House from

about 2:30 – 5:00.

Ag Day is May 17th.

V. New Business

a. Legislative bill from Nick Gorham

Rep. Nick Gorham cc'd the district with a bill-H-7465 on affordable housing. The

board asked that copies of the bill be sent to members with the minutes.

b. Urban Rivers Tool Kit

Gina updated the board on those who downloaded the toolkit. It is being

downloaded locally, nationally and internationally.

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:15 pm. Bill/Norm Vote was unanimous.