

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

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

7:00 PM

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

In attendance were:

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

Absent were:

Associate Directors-Eugene Pepper and Ed Baker

I. Minutes

Motion was made to accept the May 3rd meeting minutes as

presented. Paul/Norm

Vote was unanimous.

II. Treasurer's Reports

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

accept both reports, Paul/Marc. Vote was unanimous.

III. Old Business

a. Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program

-Stormwater Project-The doggie stations have been set up outside the vet's office

and the ice cream parlor. Gina is in the process of installing the conservation

signs and taking water samples of each one that is involved in the project.

A contract was written up between the district and the landowners that are

involved in the project and Jean signed this contract at the meeting.

Mike has been out surveying the area and will need to meet with Gina and

Rich on how to proceed with the design of the catch basin.

-Gina will be going into the last class room of the year.

-A neighbor to neighbor mailing went out in the Town of Scituate.

b. Rain Garden Project

Cathy, Gina and NRCS have continued talks on how they can install

rain gardens. Tracy Hall from Audubon is also interested in being involved

in this project. There is still no assurance that there will be funding for this.

They will be meeting again soon.

Susan Andrade, Bristol County Water, has asked the district for assistance

about implementation of rain gardens after being referred to us by Beverly

O'Keefe, Water Resource Board. Sue has also asked about our education

program on nonpoint source reduction in the watershed, as we are working

with her on the RI Drinking Water Week Celebration. Gina has spoken to Tom

and he is very busy with the farms in his area and would be grateful for any

assistance in his district regarding rain gardens.

c. Low Impact Development/Rain Gardens

At the strategic planning meeting with Jen West, the district showed interest

in working on LID's with municipalities. Jen West, Narragansett Bay Coastal

Training Program, has funds for the train the trainer program that would outreach

to municipalities on training for LID's.

The Southern District is planning a statewide training program for municipalities.

They applied for grant that includes Providence County without letting the

Northern District know about it. There are concerns that this will cause

confusion when work is being done in Providence County.

Jean will bring this

issue before the State Committee on June 14th and contact the chairs of the

Southern and Eastern Districts.

d. Ag Day

Ad Day went well. The districts were able to make contact with several

landowners and public officials.

IV. Reports

a. Chair

-Laura Nicols from NACD is leaving and Jean will need to find

another contact

person.

-NACD did not seem to up to date on whether they have received the districts

quota. The Northern District paid their quota for 05-06 on December 7th, 2005.

-There will be a tour on Friday morning with NRCS and the Congressional staff.

-The chief of NRCS will be in RI on June 29th. There will be a tour and luncheon

that will include the district managers and board members.

b. RI State Conservation Committee

The next meeting will be June 14th. Eric is still trying to set up a meeting with

Kevin Flynn of Statewide Planning and the district chairs.

c. NRCS

-NRCS has obligated all their funding.

-Mike had several plans for the board members to sign. WHIP projects to done

includes:

Coastal buffer, wetland restoration and implementation of a fish passage in

Providence; a forestry plan in Burrillville; a forestry management plan and work

being done on 2 dams and putting in a fish passage in Woonsocket;
grassland

and wildlife restoration; clean up of invasives and wetland
restoration in

Smithfield; and a fish passage and other alterations on the Pawtuxet
River.

EQIP projects include:

wildflower/warm grass and clean up of invasives in North Smithfield;
forestry

plan in Foster; irrigation improvements that include frost protection
in early

spring in Smithfield and fix access road and field borders in
Cranston.

-Mike distributed the conservation report.

**-CIG has the potential to fund projects up \$75,000 and there
have been several
applicants.**

**-CSP has received 7 applicants in the Pawtuxet Watershed and
there could be up
to 5 that will receive funding.**

**-There will be an ethno botony training on Tuesday, June 13th
from 10-3 at
NRCS.**

**-They have been working with RIEMA on emergency plans for
the avian
influenza and hurricane preparedness.**

-Mike Merrill and Mike Kenyon have put in a proposal to NRCS so they can co-supervise field staff statewide. They will split the state in half by upper and lower watersheds. This proposal will save money and feel it will be more effective.

d. Envirothon

The committee met earlier in the day and have been strategizing on how to implement a 3 credit course at the University to encourage new teachers to get involved in the Envirothon. Narragansett won the overall.

e. RC&D

They have been installing dry hydrants.

f. Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

There have been no meetings.

g. RDC

The RI Quahog initiative was released at the Ag Day presentations.

h. RIFCO

They are working on their spring program that includes 3 workshops at the Arcadia Management Area. They are planning a summer twilight night at their August meeting.

i. District Manager

-Gina has met with Patrick Kraft, DOH, regarding information for well water workshops. Patrick is working with legislators on changing laws

so that the seller will need to have their wells tested for certain items.

They

would like to develop a map of problem areas and have wells tested for those

contaminates. The seller will have to reveal the results to the buyer.

The buyer

has to pay for the well being tested at this time.

-Bill is considering stepping down in the fall.

V. New Business

a. Summer Meeting

Ed has graciously offered to have the August meeting at his place.

We discussed dates and decided on keeping the meeting the first Wednesday,

August 2nd at 4:00pm.

VI. Other

-The July meeting will be on Wednesday, July 12th.

-USDA is requesting the district to support the Team USDA booth at the

Big E in the amount of \$41.75. Motion was made to support the booth

in the amount of \$41.75, Marc/Paul. Vote was unanimous.

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:00 pm, Norm/Paul. Vote was unanimous.