

Northern RI Conservation District

17 Smith Avenue, Greenville, RI 02828, 949-1480

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

7:00 PM

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

In attendance were:

**Directors-Norm Hammond, Jean Lynch, Bill Colburn, Marc Tremblay
and Paul Dolan – Guest-Dick Went - Staff-Gina DeMarco and Wendy
Hoyle**

Absent were:

**Associate Directors-Cathryn MacDonald, Eugene Pepper and Ed
Baker – NRCS-Michael Merrill**

I. Minutes

Motion was made to accept the June 7th meeting minutes, Paul/Norm. Vote was unanimous.

II. Treasurer's Reports

The July 12th treasurer's report and FY 05-06 financial statement were distributed.

Motion was made to accept the FY 05-06 financial statement as presented,

Paul/Norm. Vote was unanimous

The FY 06-07 proposed budget was revised based on legislative funding.

Motion was made to accept the revised FY 06-07 proposed budget as presented,

Paul/Norm. Vote was unanimous.

III. Old Business

a. Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program

-Stormwater Project-Rich and Mike met at the site to review the best way

to collect the stormwater and how this could be funded through bond money.

-Rich has asked Gina to hold a tour at Joslin Farm for the public,

explaining early

Successional habit. This walking tour would take place in the fall.

-A Healthy Landscapes workshop will be held September 27th.

Cindy

Gianfransico will be leading this workshop.

b. Rain Garden Project

Cathy is unable to continue researching grants that could be used to implement

rain gardens. There will be a meeting with Mike, Audubon and the district on

rain garden opportunities at schools.

c. Low Impact Development/Rain Gardens

Gina has met with Jen West regarding the 'train the trainer' program. She is

willing to do a workshop that would include: ideas for technical assistance,

municipal ordinances and funding sources for municipalities.

She is unable

to provide any funding to implement any practices. DEM is now accepting

applications 319 grants. Gina will write up a brief summary on what the district

is looking to do for the municipalities. We will make a concentrated effort to go

after funding for next year after we attend the workshop. The board discussed

having a demonstration area that would show all types of LIDs.

It was suggested

that Gina approach Fred Presley, planner for the Town of Smithfield and also

Tom Kravitz, planner for the Town of Burrillville to see if either town would

be interested in implementing a demo site.

Jean reported that there will be a Pocasset meeting July 25th between 1-4 at NRCS.

She will find out what role the district will play and if there is available funding

to assist the district.

IV. Reports

a. Chair

-Jean attended recent tours and was impressed by the work being done. The

Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council has installed flags along Promenade

Street. Jean has written councilmen regarding the EPA superfund site.

-Jean attended the State Conservation Committee meeting

addressing the issue

of district responsibility.

-The Association voted to have Paul vote at the NE Regional Meeting.

The

association will send a letter to Paul noting this. The Association is planning

a strategic planning workshop this fall with Jackie Pashnick as facilitator.

The workshop will be held on a weekday.

b. State Conservation Committee

Paul reported that Jean's letter from the district was accepted and the Committee

has asked for policy to be drafted regarding district responsibility.

The Committee asked that each district vote on whether they wanted to be

involved in a challenge grant that would assist districts in financial matters.

Since the meeting, Southern has decided that they wanted to go ahead with this

and is no longer seeking funding through the challenge grant.

The State Committee asked the Association to put on the strategic planning

workshop that would assist in communication amongst the three districts.

c. Envirothon

A meeting was held earlier that day and set up subcommittees to assist with

promoting the Envirothon with hopes of increasing school involvement.

They will have a 2006 wrap-up meeting at Ed's and the following week, have

a strategic planning workshop. Next years topic will be on alternative

energy sources and they will need to decide how to proceed with that topic.

They would like to offer a college credit course for high school teachers at URI,

hoping this could be a good method of getting teachers involved.

d. RC&D

They have been very busy on various projects. The wool has been harvested and

sent to the m.idwest for processing and plan to have wool blankets made by the

end of the year. They are continuing to put in dry hydrants and are revising their

by-laws.

e. Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

They are looking for representatives from Glocester and North Providence

to be on the council. EPA's representatives and lawyers are looking at the

Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP's) so that they may be sued to pay for

the clean-up on the superfund site. EPA is recommending capping at this time,

but would like input from others. There is concern that not all flooded sites have

been tested and that capping with soil will only be washed away.

Jane

recommended that the council would like the river to be fishable and swimable

by 2020.

The Council has been doing clean-up and restoration projects along the river in

partnership with NRCS.

NRCS's tour with chief included fish ladders and restoration along the river at

Sunrise complex.

f. RIFCO

The summer twilight walk will be Thursday, August 3rd rain or shine on Borders

Farm Wood lot in Foster at 6:30 pm.

g. District Manager

-There will be a water quality workshop at Kendal Dean Elementary School in

North Smithfield on September 14th at 7:00 pm.

-Alicia asked the district if it was acceptable with Northern that she apply for a

grant through the Kellogg Foundation to work with the Indian Council in

Providence. The Northern District consented to the Southern District working in

Providence. Alicia is to send Gina a synopsis of the work they are planning to do.

-Calvin Weatherwax will be in August 15th – 21st. He will be speaking on ethno-biodiversity.

-URI will be hosting Pasture Walks and Talks at Watson Farm, July 29th and September 23rd.

-Gina received information on NRCS's requirements when partnering with them.

V. New Business

a. State Conservation Committee Challenge Grant

Gina distributed a proposal for 'Living on a Lake Front' to submit to the

State Committee. Motion was made to accept the proposal and submit it to

the State Committee, Marc/Paul. Vote was unanimous.

b. NE Regional Meeting Paul and Gina will be leaving Sunday morning. Jean will contact Ted about

writing a letter for Paul to take with him, stating Paul has been delegated to

vote at the meeting.

c. Grant Opportunities 319/Stormwater

Talked about earlier.

VI. Other

a. Annual Dinner The board wanted to discuss when they will be having the 2006 Annual

Dinner. The board decided on looking at Friday November 3rd for their

first choice and would like to hold the dinner at The Pines again this year.

The board also discussed having an entertainer for the

evening instead of a

**speaker. Awards were discussed and asked for the board's
input regarding**

who should receive awards this year.

**Motion was made to adjourn at 9:00 pm; Bill/Norm. Vote was
unanimous.**