

**Northern RI Conservation District
17 Smith Avenue, Greenville, RI 02828**

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 2, 2006

4:00 PM

Wakefield, RI

Jean called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

In attendance were:

Directors-Jean Lynch, Norm Hammond, Paul Dolan and Bill Colburn – Associate Director-Ed Baker – NRCS-Roylene Rides-at-the-Door and Michael Merrill – Staff-Gina DeMarco and Wendy Hoyle – Guest-Dick Went.

Absent were:

Director-Marc Tremblay – Associate Directors-Cathryn MacDonald and Eugene Pepper.

I. Minutes

Motion to accept the July 12th meeting minutes as presented, Paul/Norm. Vote was unanimous.

II. Treasurer's Reports

The treasurer's report and the FY 2005-2006 financial statement

were distributed.

Motion was made to accept both reports as presented, Bill/Norm.
Vote-unanimous.

III. Old Business

a. Rain Garden Project

Mike, Cathy and Gina met with Audubon recently to discuss the potential of partnering with them on education opportunities. They discussed what each agency is involved in and will give some thought how they can work together. The district discussed ideas on funding rain gardens on school properties. A couple of possibilities are 'Project Wild' and 'Wild School Sites' through DEM. NRCS is still working on how they can assist in funding. Gina met with Jen West on the 'train the trainer' program. She may be able to provide the training to NRICD, but unable to provide funds for NRICD to train local municipalities to implement LID's.

b. Northeast Regional Meeting

Gina gave a brief report highlighting the regional meeting. Those who attended felt there was vital information available. Gina was able to discern what other conservation districts were doing in their area. Gina shared what is being done on the Woonasquatucket River WHIP restoration project at the State of the State meeting. Pennsylvania developed a directors' handbook on a CD and we were able to obtain one. The CD may be useful in updating our information. Gina

attended a tour of a stormwater project and Paul toured a nutrient management project. Roylene attended a meeting on NASCA and felt it would be beneficial to the State Committee if this was offered in the future. The regional meeting will be at Mohegan Sun next year. RI has offered their assistance to CT if it is needed.

c. State Committee Challenge Grant

The State Committee has not made a decision on the challenge grant.

The Northern District will present their proposal for 'Living on a Lakefront' at the next State Committee meeting.

d. Pocasset Project

Jean attended the meeting last Tuesday on the Pocasset River flood plan. NRCS is editing the study report and is looking for assistance to implement plans. Cranston has a committee set up for the Pocasset project and Johnston is working on setting up a committee. Jean will be meeting with Johnston regarding this.

e. Annual Dinner

The board discussed what type of entertainment to have at the dinner and it was

decided that we will contact the RI Black Storytellers. Mike will set up a tour in

October to visit potential farms so the board can nominate one for Farmer of the

Year.

IV. Team USDA Booth

Plymouth RC&D sent a sign up sheet for volunteers to work in the Team USDA

booth at the Eastern States Exposition. The board was asked to contact the office if they are interested in volunteering.

V. Other

-NRCS – Mike distributed the latest conservation report. The Durfee Hill and

Buck Hill projects are completed. NRCS is now accepting WHIP applications and applications for EQIP will be completed shortly.

-There will be a walking tour on Joslin Farm October 3rd from 5-6:30. This tour will show early successional habitat. The land is owned by Providence Water and they are hoping this will address any concerns in the community.

-On August 16th from 10-3, SRICD will be hosting Calvin Weatherwax on ethnobotony. On Monday, August 21st, Calvin will continue speaking on ethnobotony, touring area sites with NRCS.

-Kris Stuart let the Northern District's know about a possible project that would

include working with the Blackstone Coalition on good housekeeping issues. They

will receive \$3,000 for this project. The district is interested being a part of this

and will notify Southern District on how Northern can assist them.

Motion was made to contact Southern on how Northern can assist them and ask for

\$300 to partner with them and be present at the training, Norm/Bill. Vote was unanimous.

-Roylene reported that the National NRCS office approved the RI NRCS' plan to

restructure their programs with a watershed approach. This would mean that NRCS

will split the state in half with an upper and lower watershed and would mean

that they would be eligible for additional funds. On August 28th there will be at

meeting at NRCS to further explain this new approach and how it will effect the

districts and partners. Roylene would like to get the districts

approval on this new

approach. The Northern District decided to table further discussion until after

August 28th and will be on the next meeting's agenda.

-Ed complimented the district board and staff for an excellent job of being

fiscally responsible.

-There is a vacancy on the RC&D board for another Northern District appointment.

Motion was made to adjourn at 6:35 pm, Bill/Norm. Vote was unanimous.