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**Northern Rhode Island Conservation District**

**17 Smith Avenue - Greenville, RI 02828 - Phone (401) 949-1480 - Fax  
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**MEETING MINUTES**

**September 6, 2006**

**7:00 PM**

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

**In attendance were:**

**Directors-Jean Lynch, Paul Dolan, Marc Tremblay, Norm Hammond  
and Bill Colburn – Associate Directors-Ed Baker and Eugene Pepper  
– NRCS-Michael Merrill – Staff-Gina DeMarco and Wendy Hoyle –  
Guests-Jo-Anne Pacheco and Dick Went.**

**Absent were:**

## **Associate Director – Cathryn MacDonald**

### **I. Minutes**

**Motion was made to accept the August 2nd meeting minutes as read, Marc/Norm.**

**Vote was unanimous.**

### **II. Treasurer's Reports**

**The September expense report and account balances report were distributed.**

**An amended FY 06-07 budget was distributed indicating the decrease in legislative**

**funding to \$47,500. The State Committee is considering holding the excess \$23,000**

**that the Southern District receives for rent to use for either setting up a new office or**

**a long-term lease. The Northern District is concerned about the cuts in the budget**

**because we would then need to cut employee hours. Eugene Pepper has advised**

**the Southern District to look at surplus state buildings.**

**Motion was made to write a letter to the State Committee asking them to split the**

**excess funds in thirds as originally voted on in the spring,**

**Mark/Norm. Vote was**

**unanimous. The district is asking that this be put on the State Committee's agenda**

**for October.**

**The board would like to consider purchasing a CD when the legislative funds are**

**received. This would yield higher interest than the savings account.**

### **III. Old Business**

#### **a. Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program**

**-The 05-06 Scituate Education Program Final Report has been completed and**

**distributed to Providence Water.**

**-Kate has completed a draft of the 2007 calendar. The calendar was passed**

**around for review.**

**-The district has applied for funds from the Bay and Watershed Restoration fund**

**for the stormwater basin in the Village of North Scituate.**

**Mike will be**

**producing a letter for the grant stating that NRCS will be designing the plans.**

**We will also need a letter from Providence Water for the use of the land.**

**-In March of 2007, URI would like to hold a water workshop in**

**Johnston, but**

**need a place to hold it. Some suggestions were: the library and the high school.**

**-Tysh McGrail is a local business person who owns her own landscaping**

**company in the Town of Scituate. She has a home and grounds that she would**

**like to offer as part of a demonstration for homeowners to learn environmentally**

**sound methods for gardening and stormwater abatement.**

**Gene could also**

**possibly do a pesticide workshop on the property.**

**-October 3rd, there will be the walking tour of Joslin Farm.**

**This is a WHIP**

**project on early successional grass. Gina is working on the agenda with Mike**

**and the Scituate Conservation Commission. Marc will put this tour in the**

**RIFCO newsletter. The rain date will be October 19th**

**-September 20th and 30th are the dates for the woodscaping workshop that**

**SNEFCI is doing.**

**-On September 27th URI will be holding a healthy landscape workshop,**

**beginning with a tour and following up with a presentation at the Scituate**

**Community House.**

**-Chris Modisette has applied for a grant application through the RI Foundation**

**for landowners who own forested land. Chris has asked the district to be a part**

**of this grant and coordinate the training sessions. The district would need time**

**to develop a curriculum and would Marc to be involved if possible. Chris will**

**be meeting with the RI Foundation on September 14th and the board agreed to**

**have Gina attend the meeting also.**

**b. Annual Dinner**

**Wendy has tried contacting the RI Black Storytellers, but has not received**

**a response. We did receive response from one storyteller and also it was**

**suggested to contact Mark Binder about entertaining at the annual dinner.**

**On Monday, October 2nd, the board will have a tour of landowners and projects**

**in the Northern District to choose a Farmer/Project of the Year. We will have**

**lunch at the office at 11:30 and leave at 12.**

**The board discussed the remaining awards for this year.**

**A 'Partner of the Year' award will go to the URI Home\*a\*Syst program and**

**a 'Special Recognition' award will go to Cindy Gianfrancesco of the Scituate Conservation Commission.**

**We will invite Roylene and Mike Sullivan to say a few words if they would like.**

**c. Challenge Grant**

**The State Committee voted to accept the Northern District proposal for the**

**'Living on a Waterfront' proposal. This proposal was in the amount of \$1,200.**

**We are looking at the towns of Burrillville and East Providence to hold these**

**workshops. Gina has contacted East Providence and they are deciding which**

**water body will be appropriate for the workshop. Gina will be attending the**

**East Providence Conservation Commission meeting on September 19th. The**

**district is planning to hold the workshops in the spring and will hire Kate to**

**develop these workshops. It was suggested to look at the**

**curriculum that**

**Massachusetts has developed on lake and watershed stewardship.**

**d. NRCS Restructuring**

**Jean and Paul attended NRCS' meeting on restructuring to the watershed approach.**

**Motion was made to support NRCS in their restructuring process to the 2**

**watershed approach with Mike Merrill and Mike Kenyon each overseeing a**

**segment of RI divided into upper and lower Narragansett Bay Watersheds**

**Paul/Norm. Vote was unanimous.**

**IV. Reports**

**a. Chair**

**Jean attended the meeting of the Pocasset Study Plan and has met with the**

**Mayor of Johnston about getting a team together for the stormwater**

**management district. NRCS is looking for comments on the draft of the**

**Pocasset Study Plan.**

## **b. NRCS**

**-Joe will be sending a letter asking for comments on the Pocasset Study**

**Plan.**

**-The Buck Hill and Durfee Hill projects are completed.**

**-NRCS is in negotiations regarding their current office space and will**

**probably stay there. The southern district does need to move.**

**-Vicky has accepted a new position in Vermont as an assistant conservationist**

**to Judy. Her last day is October 13th and they will be advertising for her**

**position. Justin will be back in the office part time.**

**-They are working on hiking trails along a waterway that flows into the**

**Woonasquatucket in an 88 acre park with in Providence.**

**-There may be some permitting issues for fish ladders on the Woonasquatucket.**

**-They are unable to meet their goals for the end of the fiscal year.**

## **c. Envirothon**

**The committee had a meeting earlier in the day and has been working on**



**setting up subcommittees and revising their by-laws.**

**Workshops have been**

**scheduled for November, January and early spring. The special topic is on**

**alternate energy and they are working on how they would like to proceed with**

**this topic. The committee is looking for specialists in this field.**

**d. RC&D**

**They are continuing with working on the ‘Rhody Warm’ project and hope to**

**have blankets ready for the holiday season. They are also working on some**

**state forestry programs and dry hydrants.**

**e. Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council**

**There will be a river clean-up on September 16th. Jean is attending the**

**stewardship workshop.**

**f. RDC**

**The council is continuing to work on the beef marketing and is currently**

**looking for a processing plant.**

**g. RIFCO**

**There will be a tree farm tour in October. Their newsletter will be out in**

**October. The RIFCO annual dinner will be on Saturday November 18th at Sherlock's.**

**i. District Manager**

**-Holly has asked the district to be on the steering committee for the small**

**acreage livestock farms program. They are an advocacy group for small**

**farms and meet twice a year. Norm is interested in attending these meetings.**

**-The district is still interested in pursuing working on small farm inventory with**

**NRCS**

**-There will be a well water workshop September 14th in North Smithfield at the**

**Kendall Dean Elementary School.**

**V. New Business**

**a. URI Green Share Day**

**URI is holding their annual Green Share Day on Saturday, September 16th and**

**has asked the district if they would like to participate. The board**

**agreed to**

**allow Gina to set up a display board on the Scituate project at the Green Share Day.**

**b. Financial Records Schedule**

**After spending some time investigating what should be done with old financial**

**records, Wendy discovered that the districts need go by state rules and develop**

**a financial records schedule on how to proceed with destruction of records and**

**have this approved by the Secretary of State's archives office. Norm will assist**

**Wendy in working on this.**

**c. Meeting Notices**

**The board decided that since finances are tight that future meeting notices will go out via email unless otherwise stated.**

**VI. Other**

**The NACD Presidents Association sent a letter asking if any districts would like**

**to purchase raffle tickets for a drawing at the annual meeting in February.**

**Motion to adjourn at 9:15 pm, Bill/Marc. Vote was unanimous.**