
Northern Rhode Island Conservation District

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MEETING MINUTES

September 5, 2007

3:00 PM

Paul called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm.

In attendance were:

**Directors-Paul Dolan, Norm Hammond, and Marc Tremblay –
Associate Directors-Dick Went and Ed Baker –Staff-Gina DeMarco.**

Absent were:

**Director-Jean Lynch and Eugene Pepper – Associate
Director-Cathryn MacDonald**

I. Minutes

The notes to the August meeting were reviewed. There were no minutes due to lack of a quorum.

II. Treasurer's Reports

Norm provided written reports using the new system he has developed in quick books. He will not revise it any more because the new administrative assistant is coming on board and she may have some ideas. The purpose of the report is that directors can make sense of it and we know where we stand with income, expenses and the percent of the budget used at a given month in the year.

III. Old Business

a. **Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program – Gina reported that the Gloucester Neighbor to Neighbor mailing is almost ready to go out. Delineating the areas of Gloucester within the Scituate Reservoir Watershed was discussed. The board recommended Gina ask Mike Merrill about using the Tiger Program of GIS to find addresses within the watershed. Due to a request from the Gloucester Waste Water Management group, next year's theme for the poster contest will be septic systems. Scituate and Foster are also in the process of developing their WWM program, and Rich Blodgett agreed that this would be a good choice for the upcoming**

year. Gina and Kate will meet with town representatives to discuss the project. There will be a Water Quality Workshop held tomorrow night, September 6.

b. Pocasset Project - The Cranston Mayor has not yet signed the contract. There are some funds available in Congress. We need to encourage the Cranston Mayor to sign.

c. CIG Project – NRICD is responsible for the Entech grant on Block Island for 2007 and U Mass and Frederickson from 2006. District Managers will meet and discuss outreach for the CIG for next year. Possibly have a display at the Wood Expo.

d. Administrative Assistant – The interviewing subcommittee (Paul, Marc and Gina) recommend the hiring of Ramona LeBlanc. A motion was made to hire Ramona. Marc/Norm unanimous. She is available to begin September 18. We may want to mention to Elayna that she should re apply for the Environmental Education position. We will advertise publicly, but also invite Elayna to apply.

Norm will not be able to be at the next meeting.

IV. Reports

a. Chair – not available

b. State Committee – Paul Dolan reported that the State Committee is doing well, but is concerned about a lack of funds. They are hoping

for a grant to do the PR with Chip Young. The State Committee cautioned districts not to expect any extra funds next year and to budget accordingly.

c. NRCS – Tabled. No staff at meeting.

d. Envirothon – Paul reported that Norm resigned as Chair of Envirothon, but will remain on the board. Paul Ricard has taken the role as Chair. Envirothon is in a transition stage and looking to reorganize how they do business. More subcommittees will complete the work. They are trying to attract more schools to participate and to get more money coming in. Last year some teachers visited the competition and that was very fruitful, they brought a lot of new ideas. They have initiated the Norm Hammond Scholarship Fund to provide financial assistance to winning team to attend the national competition. They may solicit funds from Envirothon Alumni.

e. RC&D – usually meet today, but they will meet next week instead. Today NRCS is at training in Vermont. The RC&D Conference will be held in mid-October in Narragansett.

f. Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council – Jean has stepped down from the council, so we will not have a regular report in the future, unless someone else on the board steps into fill her position. Some people saw the commercial on channel 10 about the WRWC.

g. Rural Development Council – They are holding their next annual session at the Wood Expo. They are working to get meat producers organized and are working with Rhody Fresh.

h. RIFCO – Marc reported that the Wood Expo will take place on October 14 at the Crowne Plaza. The Districts may put up a display

on the Conservation Innovation Grants. NRICD is very interested in doing this. Marc mentioned there is a tentative date for a tour on October 6 in Exeter and a workshop on post and beam construction – they will be completing a 12 X 16 shed for the demonstration. Oct. 27 is the tentative date. November 9 is the annual meeting and there will be a silent auction. RIFCO is participating in the RC&D Conference. RIFCO will have a demonstration truck at the Wood Expo that will educate people about “Living with Forest in Northern Woods”. The goal is to convince people to protect forest resources. It is possible that the truck will also go to Scituate as part of the Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program Woodscaping project on the Saturday before the Expo.

i. District Manager - Gina shared a concern by the district that only 3% of the food consumed in Rhode Island is grown here. The three districts would like to encourage people in the state to increase this percentage. Marc talked about Victory Gardens as one method, this is a home land security issue. There was talk about staging a food disaster for public involvement. “What if.... transportation were cut off,.... there were a disaster in the farming states..

V. New Business

a. Board Elections – Jean Lynch is stepping down as chair. There was an election for new Chair. Marc nominated Paul Dolan as Chair. Norm seconded. Unanimous. Paul accepted the position.

Norm nominated Marc Tremblay as Vice-Chair. Paul seconded. unanimous. Marc accepted.

For now the secretary position will be vacant.

Norn recommended Dick Went as a Director, because Jean is interested in stepping down from the Executive Board and becoming an Associate Director. Dick agreed and was provided nomination papers. Dick will have the signature papers filled in and it will be presented at the next State Committee meeting for official appointment to the board.

b. Wetlands Outreach and Education – Gina met with Sue Kiernan and Ms. Caron at DEM to discuss an outreach program DEM is asking NRICD to develop on the subject of wetlands encroachment. Gina explained various methods that may be used to educate the community about the need to protect wetlands and methods that can be used. The board agreed that Gina should continue to pursue this opportunity.

c. Lap top computer – When the position of Outreach and Education Assistant is filled, there will be a need for another lap top computer. The board recommended we try to get Dell or someone to donate a computer with XP on it. The new version of Microsoft is not transferable with older versions, so we should stick with the XP for now. Gina will pursue obtaining a lap top at the proper time.

Motion to adjourn Marc/Norm. 4:45 PM