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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**

**October 3, 2007**

**6:00 PM**

**Paul called the meeting to order at 6:00.**

**In attendance were:**

**Directors: Paul Dolan, Marc Tremblay, Eugene Pepper; Associate  
Directors: Dick Went, Ed Baker, Jean Lynch; Staff: Gina DeMarco and  
Ramona LeBlanc; NRCS: Mike Merrill**

**Absent were:**

**Director: Norman Hammond**

## **I. Minutes**

The notes to the September meeting were reviewed. Voting to accept was delayed until later in the meeting so a quorum could be reached. When sufficient voting members were present, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Marc, seconded by Paul; accepted unanimously.

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

Treasurer's report was presented but acknowledgement of receipt was delayed until later in meeting so a quorum could be reached. Later, a motion was made by Marc to acknowledge receipt of report, seconded by Ed, unanimous.

Ramona reported that the spreadsheet usually presented to the Board would be available beginning at the November meeting after she has a chance to meet with Wendy to fully understand where the data for that spreadsheet is drawn from.

## **III. Old Business**

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

Gina reported that the 2008 Annual Poster Contest calendar designed by Kate Bousquet is ready and presented a copy of review.

The District held a Well Water Quality Workshop on September 6 with

**Alyson McCann of URI Home\*a\*Syst. Gina reported that 25 people attended.**

**Gina met with Gloucester Waste Water Committee who proposed that the theme of next year's poster contest be septic systems. Gina noted that Gloucester, Foster and Scituate are all trying to get their waste water committee guidelines established. Gloucester would recognize any contest winners from Gloucester with a presentation at Town Hall to supplement NRICD's awards. Kate also attended this meeting.**

**Ways of the Woods, a traveling museum developed by the Northern Forest Center of Maine, will be at the Scituate Farmer's Market on October 13 from 9-2 as part of the Scituate Reservoir Watershed Woodscaping project. Scituate and Foster Conservation Commissions as well as several other partners are cooperating to bring this program to Scituate. SNEFC is leading the way on this segment as they are primarily responsible for the Woodscaping element of the SRWEP. Landowners with more than 5 acres will be invited to attend and ads will be placed in local papers to publicize.**

**Neighbor to Neighbor: 139 packets were mailed to Gloucester residents. Marc asked what kind of feedback the District got from this program. Gina felt that while there was not a lot of direct feedback from it, people are aware of it and associate it with the District. She feels the Towns like the program and actually did get positive feedback about it from each of the Towns.**

**Gina is planning to hire additional staff to work specifically on the educational programs offered to schools but would like to**

incorporate work on the Wetlands project into this position should funding/contract become available. She will hopefully begin to look for someone within a month.

An Underground Tank flyer has been developed for distribution to residents in areas of the Scituate Reservoir Watershed with high water tables, based on Fuss & O'Neill's data base. There will be a direct mailing to them and the flyers will be included in Neighbor to Neighbor mailings. Providence Water approved the flyer. Eugene will show it to DEM UST and LUST staff for feedback and report back at next meeting. Question was raised as to whether DEM UST might have more funding for wider distribution of flyer. Since there are legal requirements/regulations pending, the question was raised if those should be mentioned in the flyer. The consensus seemed to be that the District's role is to educate the public about the problem, refer them to proper agencies but are not responsible for regulatory requirements or notification.

b. Pocasset Project - The Cranston Mayor has not yet signed the contract.

### c. CIG Project

Waiting for final agreements to be distributed by Jackie Pasnik at NRCS.

#### Outreach:

Tom Sandham will make a power point presentation and a display for the Wood Expo on October 14th about CIG.

Alicia is co-coordinating a power point presentation which will

**include each District conducting a workshop highlighting CIG this Fall.**

**Each District is responsible to manage various CIG accounts. NRICD is responsible for UMASS IPM project and Frederickson's Farm for 2006 and Entech for 2007 CIG.**

**d. Wetlands Outreach and Education-Gina sent a scope of work to RIDEM for review and we are awaiting a signed contract.**

#### **IV. Reports**

**a. Chair – Paul has been promoted to Deputy Chief of Division of Forestry and with his new responsibilities will be stepping down from some committees but will remain as active as ever with NRICD.**

#### **b. NRCS**

**Mike distributed copies of RI NRCS Conservation Report. Note was made of the number of contracts in each Town in the District.**

**A workshop will be conducted at the Laurel Grange on October 9 to discuss**

**the upcoming Farm Bill.**

**Mike reminded everyone that the only funding they now have is based on 2007 Continuing Resolution Budget and is good through November. Currently EQIP is funded for 2008 but not other program is yet funded, including WHIP. They are still accepting WHIP applications pending restored funding. Currently they are trying to move some WHIP applications with agricultural elements into EQIP.**

**Hoping new Farm Bill with restore funding to WHIP.**

**Conservation Security Program (CSP): Watersheds around the upper portion of Narragansett Bay have been funded for CSP in 2008**

**c. Envirothon- Paul reported that Paul Richard will act as Chair and Vice-Chair. Envirothon has received a \$5000.00 grant from RI Division of Forestry but Paul warned this is a temporary reprieve and that more funded is needed. There is a need to get the program to be sustainable over a long term and Laura Loffredo is trying to move towards that goal. Paul discussed the need to bring someone on board to take over the financial aspects of the program, particularly to pursue grant money.**

**d. RC&D – No quorum at last meeting. New England Annual Meeting is October 18-22. Ken Ayers would like to present a post-humous award to Ted Comerford at that meeting.**

**e. State Committee-No meeting since August; next meeting October 10.**

**f. Rural Development Council –An executive meeting was held but there is nothing new to report. The question remains how much longer the Council can continue with funding only from RC&D. Work continues with meat producers and with the colleges to develop a Horticulture/Tree certificate program. Senator Reed has been approached to work on funding, but Ed felt such funding will most likely not be forthcoming.**

**g. RIFCO**

**\* Copies of the most recent newsletter were distributed to Board.**

**\*A post & beam workshop will be held on October 27. Annual Meeting being held on November 9 during which a Silent Auction will be held. Gina offered a Gift Certificate for the Seedling Sale. RIFCO looking for other donations.**

**\*A Tree Farm Tour will be conducted on October 6.**

#### **h. District Manager**

**\*DEM held a meeting at URI to discuss statewide storm water issue. About 30 people attended. They have a small grant to hire a marketing firm to develop a tag line or logo or poster to develop statewide message that can be used in existing programs and further promoted to raise awareness of issue. Gina will forward some of the ideas present and would welcome feedback about effectiveness.**

**\*Holly Burdett held a meeting updating on the grant she received for Small Acreage Farms. They are working on getting information out to small acreage farmers about feasible conservation plans/programs they can use. Of particular concern is manure management since many small farmers don't have the equipment to handle it. They are looking for ways to deal with horse manure because, although there is a desire to properly manage it, none of the farmers are willing to pay for removal. Perhaps small farmers forming a regional composting program would be a solution.**

**Gina is working on Annual Report.**

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **a. Farm Tours/2007 Awards**

**\*Farmer of the Year: Wright's Dairy Farm**

**\*Partnership Award: Trout Unlimited.**

**\*Conservationist Award: Rob & Roxanne Sardelli**

**\*Chairman's announcement of Special Recognition: Ted Comerford and Rhody Warm**

**b. Annual Dinner-Invitations will go our week of 10/8.**

**c. New Signatories-Paul will have to go in to Citizens to sign papers to be added to checking account as signer with either Norm or Jean. Jean will be removed. Norm will be added to Dexter Credit Union account as a signer and Jean will come off.**

**A separate account will be set up for RI State Committee and Gina will propose at their next meeting that Paul be the signatory for that account since he is on both the Committee and NRICD Board.**

**d. Oil Company-It was decided to stay with Dupius Oil for this heating season since the landlord has the service contract on furnace with them. Paul will track his oil cost with Collins and compare to NRICD cost at end of heating season with idea to move to Collins next year if there is a cost justification that can be presented to landlord.**

**Motion to adjourn Marc/Eugene. 7:45 PM**