

**Northern Rhode Island Conservation District**

**17 Smith Avenue - Greenville, RI 02828 - Phone (401) 949-1480 - Fax  
(401) 949-4436**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**February 6, 2008**

**7:00 PM**

**Paul called the meeting to order at 7:00.**

**In attendance were:**

**Directors: Paul Dolan, Marc Tremblay, Norm Hammond, Dick Went;  
Staff: Gina DeMarco and Ramona LeBlanc; NRCS: Mike Merrill.**

**Absent were:**

**Director: Eugene Pepper; Associate Directors: Ed Baker, Jean Lynch.**

**I. Minutes**

**The January 2, 2008 meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made: Norm/Dick, unanimous.**

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

**Treasurer's Report and Expense Report for January were presented. It was noted that State Committee funds have been moved to a separate account. Motion made acknowledge receipt of reports: Dick/Marc, unanimous.**

## **III. Old Business**

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

**The stormwater management grant from DEM will be signed within 1-2 days—NRCS will do plan and PWSB will do oversight. Gina explained it is a small grant and that she expects it to progress quickly.**

**Teacher packets for the poster contest are completed. The education program which deals with septic systems this year will be separated into two programs—one for elementary and one for middle schools.**

**Glocester Waste Water Management remains very hands on and plans to present winners from Glocester with prizes at Town Hall.**

**Liz has gotten Neighbor to Neighbor packets out to Glocester and Scituate residents and has been doing administrative clean-up in her down time. Previously used files are being organized, condensed and labeled for reuse in the future.**

**6 classroom sessions have been booked to date.**

**b. Pocasset Project: NRCS has been told to cease activity on project**

under current funding bill. It is believed that there are funds earmarked for it in the new Farm Bill. Local support from residents and politicians is good but funding is the issue. This item will be removed from agenda until someone can report on it.

c. **CIG Project:** 22 people attended a workshop held at the District office on January

15 and about the same number attended at each of the other 2 Districts. 11-12 pre-proposals were submitted (although not required). They were returned with comments. The workshop also served the purpose of increasing awareness of NRCS and the Districts.

Last year's contract is being completed and a new contract should be signed soon. Gina is monitoring hours to see if lucrative.

d. **Wetlands Outreach and Education:** A start date of 3/1 is scheduled and since

project is on such a tight schedule, it is important that this date be met.

e. **Health Insurance/Benefit Policy:** An executive meeting of the Board met and discussed putting a policy into the by-laws, but it was decided to deal with issue on an individual basis factoring in number of hours worked, longevity, etc. A motion was made to accept the decision: Marc/Dick, unanimous.

f. **Livestock Animal Inventory:** State vet has a grant proposal to start program to

begin inventory (with particular attention to poultry). NRCS may have funding available as well. May offer opportunity for Liz to gain more

hours and/or involve an intern from Southern District. Mike will give Gina information about “Coastal Fellows” program at URI. There may also be homeland security money available to support this program

#### **IV. Reports**

**a. Chair:** Paul reported that the State Committee and FFOS subcommittee are both scheduled to meet to establish new rates for FFOS. Further, the RC &D sediment handbook is currently being worked on. A Tree Steward Symposium will be held on 3/29. An Arbor Day Fair will be held at Goddard Park on April 26th. 60-80 street size trees will be planted and there will be a pruning demonstration. A tent will be available for partners to set up display.

**b. NRCS:** Mike presented several plans to be signed, with 4-5 more to come. There are 69 contracts statewide currently. \$240, 000 in EQIP funding has been obligated with applicants that had been denied in 2007 being funded in 2008. NRCS is taking EQIP and WHIP applications with hopes of having funding in the new Farm Bill. Jackie at NRCS is conducting a civil rights review and will need to interview a Board member. Dick was designated.

**c. Envirothon:** This year’s testing will be on May 15, at a site to be determined. A committee meeting was held and the financial condition of the group is good. An aquatic workshop is being held at Save the Bay on 3/13; a workshop on dirt/trees is being planned for November and a recreational impact workshop is being tentatively planned during the week of 4/7. At committee meeting is scheduled

**on 3/18 at 2:00 at NRCS.**

**d. RC & D: Blankets sold out and Rhody Warm looking for someone to process leftover wool**

**e. RDC: Funding is a problem. There is a question of whether they can continue to pay Gerry, whether they should continue or go into “sleep mode” until funding available. They need a grant or direct funding. The groups they work with are getting funding but not RDC.**

**RIFCO: Woodland owner workshops start on 2/9 (Marc handed out flyers). The average attendance has be 10-20 per workshop. On 3/8 a workshop will be held at the RIFCO woodlot.**

**f. District Manager: Gina attended a Local 365 workshop at Brown which was attended by 150-200 people. The goal is to develop a hub that would be both a market for local product but also contain government inspected facilities (kitchen) for processing products. Still in discussion stages with no source of funding or even location determined at this point.**

**A Water Quality Workshop will be held in Burrillville on 3/13 at 7 PM in cooperation with Home A Syst.**

**The Water Festival will be held on 5/6; volunteers are needed.**

**CIG ranking will begin in March, Marc will tentatively be available.**

**In April or May Mike Merrill will lead a wildlife walk and talk tour of Joslin Farm.**

**Wayne Barnes from E. Providence contacted Gina to do a presentation on rain gardens at a CRMC sponsored stormwater convention on 4/29. It will be a 20 minute presentation with 10 minutes of question and answers. Mike Merrill will attend with Gina.**

**Girls Scouts of America's local chapter contacted Gina to participate in a conference and a troop leader asked her to talk to her group. The Board warned that addressing individual troops will be time consuming and not very productive. They authorized participation at the conference to pursue possibility of a grant for Liz to do an outreach program at summer camps.**

## **V: New Business**

**a. 08-09 Plan of Work presented to Board for review. Gina highlighted new items/changes. Further discussion to be held at next meeting.**

**b. 08-09 Budget present for review. A few items were increased: utilities budget amount will be \$3000.00, oil will be \$1500.00 and mileage will be \$1100.00.**

**Motion made to acknowledge receipt of proposed budget: unanimous.**

## **VI: Other**

**a. Scituate High School is trying to form a community committee to build Agriculture program to meet the requirements to be accepted as a science credit. District involvement possible in area of a required community service component which may tie into upcoming stormwater and rain garden projects. PWSB has tried to become involved in high schools (Scituate and Ponaganset) to no avail. This**

**might present an opening to establish that contact. Gina will discuss funding her participation on committee with PWSB on that basis. Also, it could be a good contact for Envirothon.**

**b. Rain Barrel Sale: The Board authorized pricing of the rain barrels to be \$73.00**

**which includes a \$5.00 profit for District.**

**Motion to adjourn at 9:35 Dick/Norm/unanimous.**