
Northern Rhode Island Conservation District

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

MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 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,
Eugene Pepper; Staff: Gina DeMarco and Ramona LeBlanc.**

Absent were:

Associate Directors: Ed Baker, Jean Lynch.

I. Minutes

The February 6, 2008 meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made: Dick/Norm, unanimous.

II. Treasurer's Reports

Treasurer's Report and Expense Report for February were presented. It was noted that, although expenses will be high over the next several months, there is enough money in liquid accounts to carry the District through to the end of the year. The Board would like try to put the CD that matures in March into a Money Market account at Dexter if it is available to business accounts. If not another 3 month CD would be a viable alternative. Motion made acknowledge receipt of reports; motion made to accept reports Marc/Gene, unanimous.

III. Old Business

a. Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program

The stormwater management grant from DEM is signed. Mike Merrill (NRCS) will develop plan and PWSB will oversee or hire Fuss & O'Neill to oversee. Project should be completed quickly.

A Woodscaping Workshop will be held on the 29th of March at the North Scituate Community Center by SNEFSCI. Publicity will include a Bargain Buyer ad, press releases and direct mailings.

The Town of Gloucester has given permission to put a dog waste

management system at Heritage Park. PWSB will fund it. Details will be worked out with Town.

Letters have gone out to landscapers in watershed area to introduce the District and inform them that workshops will be offered to introduce green landscaping practices. The next Business Bulletin will address same issue and will be reviewed by Tish McGrail (Woodscapes).

Poster Contest packet has been sent out.

Scituate High School: Another meeting was held and attended by an enthusiastic panel. Gina did make known that the District needs to maintain a cordial relationship with the Superintendent's office. She had previously met with Rich Blodgett (PWSB) and he is willing to fund her participation on the panel and offered a variety of ways that PWSB would be willing to contribute (possibly to Ponaganset High School as well, if the interest is there). Specifically the construction of rain gardens with the heavy work being done by PWSB, at a site that would be safe for students to work, GIS for the schools with instruction on how to use, activity clubs for PHS and SHS, a rain garden demonstration site and gardens wherever there are stormwater outlets (these last could be pursued with or without the school's participation). He would also like to see a forestry program developed in the HS. The future of green architecture is one that should be presented to students as a promising and growing career. Areas of interest for students to pursue: the history of Scituate Light and Power, changes in land use over time, what would Scituate be like without the reservoir...He suggested Gina just listen to what the

school wants and what their ideas are.

School presentations start on March 11 and there will be a Home*A*Syst workshop at Burriville Middle Scholl on March 13th that Liz will attend for a training experience.

Kate is writing the quarterly Business Bulletin and two brochures for the Wetlands program and Liz will be taking over implementation of the Poster Contest.

A teacher at PMS has expressed interest in introducing a conservation theme throughout the school and he and Gina have been trying to get together to discuss.

CIG Project: Due to lack of funding because new Farm Bill has not been passed, the Districts have been told cease all work on the project which may continue but only with NRCS involvement. Paul would like District to bill NRCS for work completed under the new contract (which has not been signed but a verbal ok had been given).

b. Wetlands Outreach and Education: Contract signed by Dick went for NRICD, and project ready to begin as soon as the Director of DEM signs.

c. Seedling program: Ads out and flyers mailed, orders starting. Board will help as follows: Friday –Marc, Paul, Dick and possibly Deb; Saturday-Gene, Deb. Ramona will try to get Cindy Gianfrancesco to help on Saturday as well. Discussion of having someone inside to help people place rain barrel orders on pick up dates.

IV. Reports

a. Chair: Paul reported that the FFOS recommendations are good through February 2009.

RC&D has a variety of programs planned including a Bay Day on 7/29; DEM is conducting a “No child left inside” campaign to promote use of the State Parks. The Forestry Service has a grant application in process to hire an urban forester.

b. NRCS: Mike was not able to attend meeting but sent his report for the Board to review.

c. Envirothon: A meeting is scheduled for March 18th at NRCS. This year’s special problem will be the impact outdoor recreation has on the environment.

d. RDC: Grant money is being pursued (through Division of Ag) to promote farmer’s markets.

e. RIFCO: Woodland owner workshops continue and work will begin on an Adirondack shelter at RIFCO,

f. District Manager: Gina informed the Board that the annual NACD meeting will be August 3-5 in Portsmouth, NH.

Steve Hopkins is quite active in the Sand Dam Association where there is a problem with invasives. The Association has approached the town for support and has raised money through yard sales, a silent auction and direct contributions.

He saw the NRCS ad and wonders if there may be funding available through one of their programs. Gina told him he will need to focus on wildlife issues. The Board suggested conducting an educational workshop to talk about issues of run-off from lawns, sub-standard septic systems and their impact on the weed problem. Scott

Rabideau could be called upon as a speaker and Lysock might provide a speaker as well to discuss invasive species control. Home*A*Syst may also be a valuable resource on this topic. A workshop may be a first step towards organizing the Northern RI Lake Association since Sand Dam seems well organized, funded and willing to work on these issues.

V: New Business

- a. 08-09 Plan of Work adopted as written: Norm/Dick, unanimous.**
- b. 08-09 Budget adopted with changes Board had previously suggested: Gene/Marc, unanimous.**
- c. Annual Dinner: Southern and Eastern Conservation Districts suggested the possibility of holding a single, combined Annual Dinner this year. The Board felt that this was not a good idea since the number of awards, speakers, etc. would be prohibitive. Further, they felt it important to have the dinner centrally located within the District. It was decided that the dinner should focus on local foods and it was suggested that Johnson & Wales be contacted to find a catering source and that Smithfield Elks Club would provide a good location. Ramona will begin working on these suggestions. PWSB would like to present and award to an outstanding Business Partner and possibly a landscaper who adopts eco-friendly practices.**
- d. Legislative Outreach: Peter Ginaitt attended the last SCC meeting to share outreach ideas with the committee. He predicted that the next 2-3 years would be bad financial years. Eric Offenbergh has**

asked each District to contact 4 legislators for face to face discussion of the Districts and their work. An information packet will be prepared and the following legislators will be contacted: Carol Mumford (Paul Dolan), Paul Winfield (Gina), Paul Fogarty (Gene Pepper) and Edwin Pacheco (Marc Tremblay). Further, Paul suggested that letters go to those legislators that have been supportive in the past, reminding them how much their help will be need this year to keep the Districts funded. Paul would be willing to sign the letter.

VI: Other

Motion to adjourn at 9:05 Norm/Dick: unanimous.