

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District

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MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 2008

7:00 PM

Paul called the meeting to order at 7:00.

In attendance were:

Directors: Paul Dolan, Eugene Pepper, Dick Went; NRICD Staff: Gina DeMarco, Ramona, LeBlanc. NRCS: Garrett Timmons.

Absent were: Director Norm Hammond; Associate Directors: Jean Lynch, Ed Baker, Marc Tremblay.

I. Minutes

**A motion was made to accept the minutes from the 6/4/08 meeting:
Dick/Gene, unanimous;**

**a motion was made to accept the minutes from the 7/16/08 meeting:
Dick/Gene: unanimous.**

II. Financial Reports

A motion was made to acknowledge receipt the June and July financial statements: Dick/Gene, unanimous.

III. Old Business

A) Ag Inventory:

Neither DEM nor NRCS has signed an agreement, so project is still on hold. Signatures are expected soon although the DEM is waiting for an exemption from the State spending freeze.

NRCS is waiting for regional director to sign off on agreement. Liz, who has been waiting to begin project all summer, may take another temporary assignment. In this case, some staffing alternative would be needed.

Concern was raised that although the NRCS would like to generate interest and applications for WHIP funding through the inventory, the properties visited may not be the right targets. Also, NRCS programs can be introduced but there is no guarantee that contracts will result.

B) Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program:

Plans for the BMP in Scituate village are in office, permit has been applied for. RFP ad is running on 8/18 and the sign should be up by that date as well.

Gina conducted a presentation on septic systems for the Gloucester

Waster Water Management Commission. The Gloucester winner of the poster contest was also there to display his poster.

The issue of the danger presented to septic systems by the use of road chemicals was raised. Currently DOT must maintain all roads at no more than wet conditions during storms. Without a change in legislation that mandates the use of calcium chloride instead of salt, there will be no change in treatment.

A well workshop will be held on September 9th at the Scituate Community House.

Gina has begun meeting with Rich Blodgett, Chris Modisette and Marc Tremblay to work on the next 5 year plan. Basics will remain the same with more emphasis on stormwater. There was discussion of Low Impact Development (LID) and the possibility of demonstration sites to showcase green roofs, rain gardens, rain barrel, pervious parking, etc.

A tour of Joslin Farm as part of the Woodscaping program is upcoming.

C) Wetlands in you Backyard:

The Wetlands brochure has been printed and the brochure on invasives is in draft form. The point was raised that this brochure should discuss the correct way to remove invasives. Packets for the poster contest (grades 3-8 Burrillville/Smithfield) are ready.

IV. Reports

A) Chair:

Paul synopsized the July meeting for Gene who had been unable to attend. See minutes.

B) Envirothon:

Norm was pleased with the performance of the RI team at the competition in Arizona.

Liz Berg has been hired as the new education coordinator.

C) NRCS:

Conservationist Report distributed.

There is potentially money available for a nutrient management and fresh water invasive species. Gina expressed concern that NRICD would need additional staff to do the nutrient management and the district would need more information before committing to the project. The northern lakes project (fresh water invasives) is of interest to the district. NRCS has a small amount of money to commit to develop a plan of how to deal with the invasive. Ideally 4-5 lakes would be targeted in a pilot program.

D) RIFCO:

The new building was dedicated. About 40 people attended a cook-out/bonfire.

V. New Business

A) Farm Tours will be conducted the week of 8/18/08.

B) Eugene Pepper will act as Vice Chair until the November election.

A motion to adjourn was mad at 8:35: Dick/Gene, unanimous.