

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District

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

MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2008

7:00 PM

Paul called the meeting to order at 7:00.

In attendance were:

**Directors: Paul Dolan, Norm Hammond, Eugene Pepper, Dick Went,
Louis L. Vinagro, III; NRICD Staff: Gina DeMarco, Ramona, LeBlanc.
NRCS: Mike Kenyon.**

Absent were: Associate Directors Jean Lynch, Marc Tremblay

I. Board Election

It was agreed that voting would be held at 8:00.

**At that time, Louis Vinagro, III was elected to the Board with a vote of
8-0.**

II. Minutes

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the October 8, 2008 meeting: Dick/Norm, unanimous.

III. Financial Reports

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

IV. Reports

A) Chair:

Paul reported that the State Conservation Committee met to discuss strategies to strength the districts so that they can survive possible additional budget cuts. The discussion is moving in a positive direction. One thing that has emerged is the importance of a local presence by the districts.

The New England RC &D meeting was held and Paul mentioned some of RI RC & D's ongoing projects: urban & dry hydrants, the urban forester (started 11/3 and working out of Chopmist). Next meeting is 11/12/08.

B) NRCS:

Updates distributed. Mike Kenyon reported that 79 EQIP applications had been processed by the November 1 deadline. A partnership meeting will be held on November 13.

C) RDC:

No report.

D) RC&D:

Covered previously by Paul.

E) RIFCO:

Annual Dinner scheduled for November 15. A biomass program is being planned in February either at Ponaganset Middle School or High School with the PHS boiler being part of the discussion.

F) RIACD:

Board Elections will be held at 11/19 meeting at 4:30 at NRCS. 3 nominees were requested from each district. All were encouraged to attend and vote.

G) Envirothon

Special topic workshop will be held on 11/19 at 9:00 at Ninagret Park. The problem will be distributed at that time. The 2009 Envirothon will be held at Goddard Park on May 5.

H) RIRLA

The quarterly report included information about the Ag Inventory. The Association continues to try to increase market share in RI, using local processing and packaging facilities and selling at Farmers' Markets. Louie reported that he just received health permit and can now sell directly from his farm including selling to restaurants.

F) District Manager:

Gina would like to invite the staff for lunch or something similar in November.

V. Old Business

A) SRWEP

The 2009 calendar is being printed. The theme for this year's program will be "Go Green." Kate is working to develop an informational packet. The BMP has been completed and a request for payment has been submitted. Work with Scituate High School is increasing. They would like to begin installing a rain garden at a public location each academic year. They will work on a riparian buffer started by DOT to increase its effectiveness eventually identifying and removing invasives. Native plants will be raised in the school's greenhouse. A green roof (and a demonstration green roof at waist level) and a permeable parking lot may be installed at the HS with funding from PWSB. PWSB has already committed to a permeable lot at Tasca Field. Fuss & O'Neil will design and implement and NRICD will do the education and outreach.

A rough draft of the proposal for the next 5 year contract was distributed and Gina invited comments/observations within a week. Rich Blodgett will also review before it is submitted.

B) Wetlands

The calendar is being printed.

C) Ag Inventory

The drive by portion of the project is nearly completed. The NRCS requirements are more than being met; as an example, 10 surveys were required and 27 have been completed. In the future, if more

money is available, the agreement may be amended to increase scope of work to allow payment for the full number completed. A list of bird owners interested in testing is being forwarded to Scott Marshall on a regular basis.

VI. Other

The next meeting will be at 6:00 on December 3 and will be followed by dinner at the Greenville Inn.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:45: Gene/Norm, unanimous.