

**Northern Rhode Island Conservation District**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**January 7, 2009**

**7:00 PM**

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

**In attendance were:**

**Directors: Paul Dolan, Eugene Pepper, Norm Hammond, Dick Went,  
Louis L. Vinagro, III;**

**NRICD Staff: Gina DeMarco, Ramona LeBlanc. NRCS: Garret  
Timmons. RI RD&C: Chris Modisette.**

**Absent were: Associate Directors: Marc Tremblay, Jean Lynch, Ed  
Baker.**

**I. Minutes**

**A motion was made to accept the minutes from the December 3, 2008  
meeting: Dick/Gene, unanimous.**

## **II. Financial Reports**

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

## **III. Reports**

### **A) Chair:**

**No report.**

### **B) NRCS:**

**Audit is complete and normal work is resuming. Construction had continued throughout audit process. Local office is still waiting on rules of interpretation/implementation of new Farm Bill.**

### **C) RC&D**

**New five year strategic plan is in development stage. Chris asked for input from NRICD board**

**and distributed surveys which will be returned to Gina who, in turn, will forward to Chris. Chris**

**would like to have an outreach program to solicit ideas from the public. The board authorized**

**Gina to assist in the coordination of such a session in the Northern district.**

### **D) RDC:**

**Nothing to report.**

### **E) RIFCO:**

**Biomass workshop at Ponaganset is scheduled for 2/21/09. Two**

**sessions will be held: one for general public and one for professionals. The group has also begun discussing the possibility of funding a youth forestry award. The next step is to develop a synopsis of criteria for award.**

**F) RIACD:**

**The Association has a website up and is trying to establish links with partners. Development of a**

**Conservation District brochure is also underway. Any remaining RI Foundation grant funds will**

**be used for Chip Young to publicize the work of the districts. Dick has met with Eric Offenberg**

**(SCC) and Chip Young and Eric would like to apply for an organizational grant from the RI**

**Foundation to coordinate conservation efforts statewide. Norm is working on the Association by-laws.**

**G) RIRLA:**

**The Annual Meeting will be on March 18 at West Greenwich Elks. A website is being developed.**

**H) District Manager**

**Liz has begun initial work on the Lake Invasives grant with NRCS. A steering committee will be**

**established and, if it is not a conflict of interest, Gene Pepper will take NRICD's seat on the**

**committee. If it is a conflict, Gina will take the seat. DEM has been tracking lake invasives**

statewide, so they may be consulted when pilot lakes are being chosen.

Liz is looking for grants to fund the compilation of educational materials developed for the

SRWEP program into a format that could be marketed and applied to other watersheds' outreach requirements.

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **A) SRWEP**

Gina is meeting with Rich Blodgett on 1/13/09 to discuss the five year proposal.

13 Scituate High School students participated in the Rockland Road project. There will be a

screening of "FLOW" (For Love of Water) at the High School on 1/14/09.

In the new five year plan, it will be suggested that RD& C take over management of the forestry

stewardship portion of the program.

Kate is finishing the "Bee Green" poster contest materials, classroom sessions are being scheduled

and the next Neighbor to Neighbor packet is ready to be mailed.

##### **B) Wetlands**

The brochures have been completed and will be distributed to priority landowners in Burrillville

and Smithfield, in Neighbor to Neighbor packets and will also be distributed by Scituate HS

students at their programs. A walk and talk will be held in Spring 2009.

### **C) Ag Inventory**

The final report was passed for review. DEM has some funds remaining and would like to do two more towns under this contract. They would like to do Little Compton and Tiverton but would like Liz to complete the drive-by portion of the project. If ERICD is not willing to allow her to do so, the money will be spent to do two towns in Providence County.

### **D) SCC**

NRICD is still a viable office. Since each district needs its own office and identity, the NRICD

board is not in favor of merging offices. The suggested locations for unmanned satellite offices

are Cumberland Library, North Smithfield Library and Gloucester-Manton Library.

From the list of ideas for potential work for the districts generated at SCC meetings, the board would like to pursue expansion of watershed education to other watersheds, expansion of the Ag Inventory program currently underway, possible implementation of freshwater invasives management plans, having districts do mapping for FFOS applicants, marketing education & outreach to state agencies and NRCS and looking for ways to work with the 3% food security issue.

If NRICD approaches town administrators to market its expertise, the approach would be to site plan review committees and conservation commissions.

#### **E) Seedling Sale**

Plants have been ordered.

A rain barrel sale will be included in the Seedling event, with rain barrels from RI Rain Lady and a distribution on Saturday April 18th from 9-12. Keith and Liz Rogers will sell their native plants, Cindy Gianfrancesco will sell PJM's and another vendor will sell herbs. Each vendor will collect money for their sales and give the district a portion. Extra seedlings and daylilies will be sold by the district. Pre-ordered seedling distribution will be kept separate from other sales. A pollinator workshop is also being planned in conjunction with the sale. More volunteers than usual will be needed to coordinate these varied activities.

#### **VI. New Business**

Chris Modisette will investigate the possibility of RC&D partnering with NRICD to present a carbon credit workshop/program.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:50: Dick/Gene, unanimous.