

---

**Northern Rhode Island Conservation District**

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**February 12, 2009**

**7:00 PM**

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

**In attendance were:**

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

**NRICD Staff: Gina DeMarco, Ramona LeBlanc. NRCS: Justin Tuthill.**

**Don Gagnon, North Smithfield Conservation Committee.**

**Absent were: Director Eugene Pepper; Associate Directors: Marc  
Tremblay, Jean Lynch, Ed Baker.**

**I. Minutes**

**A motion was made to accept the minutes from the January 7, 2009 meeting: Dick/Norm, unanimous.**

## **II. Financial Reports**

**The proposed budget for 2009-2010 had been emailed to board members before meeting. An executive session of the Board will meet on February 18th at 2 pm to discuss proposed pay raises.**

**If all projects under discussion are realized the District will be in stable financial condition and should be able to withstand further cuts in State funding.**

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

## **III. Reports**

**A) Chair: No report.**

### **B) SCC**

**The State Conservation Committee Chair, Eric Offenber, is strongly advocating the centralization of the 3 districts and their administration. He would like to see one person handle specific roles statewide: Liz/biosecurity, Tom/technical assistance to landowners, Gina/education and outreach, Ramona/administration. RIACD would become the umbrella over the districts, responsible for administration and the channeling of funds. Funds would be tied to specific projects**

**and would be tracked as such.**

**Concern was raised about co-mingling of funds and how to handle funds that are linked to district specific projects, i.e., PWSB.**

**Eric would like the districts to be more involved with land trusts and forest stewardship. NRCS has been unable to perform all conservation plans for FFOS applicants and the districts may have a future role taking over this responsibility. There is the possibility of funding from NRCS to train a district staff member to do these plans.**

**C) NRCS:**

**Conservationist reports distributed.**

**Under 2008 Farm bill there will be \$3 million in EQIP funding and \$2.5 million in WHIP funding available in RI. There are 126 applications for EQIP (55 in Providence County). A change in the rules related to cost share stipulates that there is a \$300,000 cap for any 6 year period and it is retroactive.**

**The new state conservationist, Pooh Vongkhamdy, starts the week of February 16th.**

**D) RC&D: No report.**

**E) RDC: No 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. A tentative date of 11/14/2009 has been set for the annual banquet.

**F) RIACD:**

Dick attended the NACD Annual Meeting in New Orleans and has emailed a summary to the board. He will also attend the NELM conference in New Hampshire as will Tom, Gina and Ramona.

Dick has met with Eric Offenbergl and Chip Young and will begin attending steering committee meetings for the Van Buren grant proposal.

**G) RIRLA:**

The Annual Meeting will be on March 18 at West Greenwich Elks.

**H) District Manager**

The Land and Water summit will be held on 3/21.

**IV. Old Business**

**A) SRWEP**

A new 5 year proposal has been submitted to PWSB.

The "Bee Green" poster contest information has been distributed.

A water quality workshop will be held at Ponaganset High School on 3/24.

**B) Wetlands**

**The final task in this agreement will be a walk and talk to be held on May 16 at Deerfield Park in Smithfield and a site in Burrillville to be determined.**

**Analysis of the expenses associated with this project to date indicates that the grant will cover all expenses and staff hours at the billable rate previously adopted by the board.**

### **C) Ag Inventory**

**The DEM agreement for this project has been amended to provide additional time/funding to conduct the survey in two towns in ERICD. Liz has begun assembling the packets and drive-bys will begin in March.**

### **D) Lake Invasives**

**Liz coordinated the first meeting of the steering committee and at that time it was decided to prioritize**

**Bowdish Lake in Glocester and Belleville Lake in North Kingstown. NRCS has funding for two lakes and since there is already data available on these two, they were determined to be good candidates. Also, the issues for each are different enough that the plans developed will be varied and beneficial as pilot plans for other lakes. DEM will pursue funding to include Smith/Sayles and Keech Pond.**

## **VI. New Business**

### **A) Proposed Budget**

**Hard copies of the proposed budget were distributed for review.**

### **B) Record Storage**

**The staff will discard records older than 7 years with the exception of FFOS applications, conservation plans, etc. Discarded material will be shredded.**

**A motion to adjourn was made at 8:55: Norm/Dick, unanimous.**