

**Northern Rhode Island Conservation District**

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(401) 949-4436**

**May 6, 2009**

**7:00 PM**

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

**In attendance were:**

**Directors: Norm Hammond, Dick Went, Louis L. Vinagro, III, Eugene Pepper; Associate Director Jean Lynch;**

**NRICD Staff: Gina DeMarco, Ramona LeBlanc; NRCS: Justin Tuthill; Joe Cardillo;**

**Absent were: Director Paul Dolan; Associate Directors: Ed Baker, and Marc Tremblay.**

**I. Minutes**

**A motion was made to accept the minutes from the April 1, 2009 meeting: Norm/Dick, unanimous.**

**II. Financial Reports**

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

**Gene reported invoices to DEM will not be paid until after July1.**

### **III. Old Business**

#### **A) SRWEP**

**The District is still waiting for approval of the next five year proposal.**

**A tour of Joslin Farm was held on April 25th and approximately 135 people attended. 7-8 different tours were conducted.**

**Scituate High School students, under the guidance of the NRICD, held a Water Festival at the Scituate Farmers' Market on May 2.**

**SHS students will also be completing work started last fall on a plunge pool to control erosion on Rockland Road on May 18th and 19th. Approval has been obtained from RI DOT**

**Another Water Festival was held at the PWSB's water treatment facility on May 5th. Approximately 250 elementary students participated.**

#### **B) Wetlands**

**The final task in this agreement will be a lecture by Frank Crandall to be held at the Audubon Society in Smithfield on May 16th from 9-12.**

#### **C) Ag Inventory**

**Survey of Tiverton and Little Compton has been completed and Liz will begin entering data at DEM on 5/7/09.**

#### **D) Lake Invasives**

**An RFP has been published and a few bid packets have been issued. Because there is no lake association at the Belleville location, it has been dropped from the pilot program and Smith/Sayles Lake will be target along with Bowdish Lake. Bids are due May 15th and the review process will begin on the 22nd. The plans chosen should be templates that can be applied at various locations throughout the state.**

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

**The sale was held on April 17th and 18th and raised approximately \$4000.00.**

#### **F) Annual Dinner**

**The event will be held on September 11th at Addieville East Farm and More than A Meal will cater.**

**Details (including a shooting event) will be worked out in June.**

#### **G) Pocasset Flood Plain**

**This project is back under consideration with funds available through the stimulus package. A meeting was held in Johnston to discuss plans and was attended by the mayors of both Johnston and Cranston as well as representatives from NRCS. It is a \$27 million project and will require congressional legislation for approval. The town's match amount could be an issue but will be brought to the public for discussion. Their contribution does not necessarily have to be cash invested but could be an in-kind contribution.**

**Separate funding has been applied for to begin buying homes in the flood zone.**

## **VI. Reports**

### **A) Chair**

**No report.**

### **B) SCC**

**The next SCC meeting has been changed from May 13th to the 27th. In the meantime, Eric will meet with Chip Young, Dick Went, Gina DeMarco and Ramona LeBlanc to work out specifics of a plan to bring the administration of all the districts to a single office. A proposed budget will be developed before the meeting on the 27th.**

### **C) Envirothon**

**The event is scheduled for 5/21 at Goddard Park. 10 teams will compete.**

### **D) NRCS**

**Reports of NRCS activity in Providence County were distributed. There are currently 175 applications statewide in the amount of \$3.67 million (72 in Providence County). The State Conservationist's goal is to have funds obligated in June. Once 90% of available funds are obligated, additional funding can be requested.**

**There is some difficulty obligating the available \$2.5 million in WHIP**

**funds because of the stipulation that there be an agricultural component to the property enrolled.**

**NRCS will return to the practice have having 3 district conservationists.**

**D) RC& D**

**A planning meeting to work on the next 5 year plan was held on May 6 and the next regular meeting is scheduled for June.**

**E) RDC**

**Nothing to report.**

**F) RIFCO**

**Spring program is scheduled for 5/9 with a 5/16 rain date at the Millar residence. A youth forester award will be made at the annual dinner and will include a prize of approximately \$250.00. There will be an Arborist Convention at Roger Williams Park Zoo on July 25th and RIFCO will participate.**

**G) RIACD**

**The next meeting has been postponed from May 14th to June 9th. The RI Foundation grant has been closed and Dick has submitted the final report. 2500 brochures were developed and printed and a website was developed. 2 years of administration for the website has been paid for in advance.**

**Dick will be applying for a Champlain Foundation grant to purchase a**

**copier/printer/scanner to be used at the Districts' centralized office. Also included in the grant proposal is a request for funds to purchase a Dell computer with ArcView installed.**

**Dick attended a meeting at DEM with Ken Ayars, Gene Pepper and several NRCS staff members. It was agreed that the Districts should have people trained to do conservation plans for properties enrolled in FFOS under the Farm designation. NRCS has agreed to provide the training but Ken indicated that the plans do not have to be as extensive as those prepared by NRCS. Mike Moorman and Gene Pepper will work together to determine the training program and the standards that the conservation plans must meet. Gene wants clear standards the DEM staff can use in reviewing plans. Eventually a copy of the plan will need to be submitted when the application for FFOS status is filed. The farmer will pay to have the plan developed and practices will need to be implemented. Recertification will be required and it is through this process that farms without plans currently will be forced to have one developed. Any changes that are needed to existing plans will require a fee to be paid by the farmer.**

#### **H) RIRLA**

**Nothing to report.**

#### **I) District Manager**

**Nothing more to discuss.**

#### **V. New Business**

## **A) HAP**

**Chip Young has suggested to the Coalition for Water Security that Gina handle the outreach/education effort for the Water Resources Board Hunt-Annaquatucket-Pettaquamscutt (HAP) water basin pilot program in the local (EG/NK) communities. This would be the first project undertaken under the proposed plan that would have all education and outreach for the state coordinated by Gina and would give the SCC the chance to work out details of how to administer and allocate funding under such an approach. The Board will be kept posted as to the progress of the proposal.**

**A motion to adjourn was made at 9:15: Norm/Dick, unanimous.**