

**Northern Rhode Island Conservation District**

**17 Smith Avenue - Greenville, RI 02828 - Phone (401) 949-1480 - Fax  
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**June 3, 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, Eugene Pepper;**

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

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

**I. Minutes**

**A motion was made to accept the minutes from the May 6, 2009  
meeting: Dick/Norm, unanimous.**

**II. Financial Reports**

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

**A motion was made to accept the 2009-2010 Budget as presented:**

**Gene/Dick, unanimous.**

### **III. Old Business**

#### **A) SRWEP**

**The proposal for the next 5 year plan has been accepted by the PWSB and has been submitted to the City of Providence for final processing.**

**The Rockland Road project has been completed with Scituate High School and Gina will be meeting with Shannon Donovan, Rich Blodgett and Chris Modisette to discuss possible future projects with SHS. Kate is working on the next Business Bulletins, 2 having been completed with the 3rd in draft form. The poster calendar will be printed this fiscal year. Classroom presentations have all been completed. The final report for the program is in process.**

#### **B) Wetlands**

**This project is 100% completed and has been billed.**

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

**This project has been completed and Liz will submit final report upon receipt of survey information from Tom Sandham.**

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

**Bids on the RFP were significantly higher than the budgeted amount. NRCS had allocated \$9000.00 and RI DEM, having an interest in**

seeing the project completed, decided to contribute \$24000.00 which will allow the plan to be developed. Although the contract with DEM will be signed 6/4/09, a PO will not be issued until July. The steering committee recommended accepting the proposal of ESS. A motion was made to award the bid to ESS: Dick/Norm, unanimous.

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

Justin Tuthill will get recommendations for farms/landowners involved in conservation plans that might be considered for an award at the Annual Dinner. Gina would like to award a Teacher of the Year.

### **VI. Reports**

#### **A) Chair**

The Conservation Partner Outreach committee, chaired by Stu Nunnery, met.

#### **B) SCC**

The SCC has developed an operating budget for the proposed consolidation of the three Districts. While administration would be centralized and its cost split between the Districts, each Board would remain autonomous and could run its own programs. The SCC would employ all District staff. The budget will be presented at the next RIACD meeting when members of all the Boards will be present and Eric will be available for questions.

### **C) Envirothon**

**Coventry High School won the competition with 456.8 points. Channel 10 provided coverage of the event. The next Board meeting will be at Norm's house in July.**

### **D) NRCS**

**Justin has been assigned to be the District Conservationist for NRICD. He distributed an engineering practices report for Providence County. NRCS is trying to reach regional equity status by mid-June by obligating 90% of the \$3.5 million allocated for EQIP. WHIP contracts will be completed after EQIP contracts are signed. \$165,000 is available in RI for CIG grants with a \$75,000 limit per contract. The application deadline is 6/26 so there will be no time for outreach but workshops will be held in the fall for the next round of awards. 4 projects totaling \$2.37 million have been funded in RI through Emergency Water Protection program.**

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

**Work continues on various projects including Rhody Warm and urban forestry.**

### **E) RDC**

**No report.**

### **F) RIFCO**

**Spring program was well attended. There will be an Arborist Convention at Roger Williams Park Zoo on July 25th and RIFCO will participate.**

#### **G) RIACD**

**The next meeting is June 9th.**

**The van Bueren grant, in the amount of \$245,500.00 has been approved and will be administered through RIACD. Additional funding for the Agricultural Collaborative will be solicited at a luncheon featuring RI raised food in July.**

**Louie has made arrangements to have RIACD pamphlet distributed at the upcoming winter farmer's market next November-May.**

#### **H) RIRLA**

**The quarterly newsletter is due out. Over the summer several events are planned including pasture walks and "Farm to Chef" programs. Details are posted on the Farm Fresh RI website. The June 29th Farm to Chef event will be held at Louie Vinagro's farm and will include the next RIRLA meeting at 7:00.**

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

**SNEFCI will cease to operate and is holding a final meeting at Polaski Park on 6/8 at noon.**

**Gina will be on vacation from June 11th through the end of June.**

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

**A) Annual Report:**

**The SCC discussed making its annual report more involved/detailed, with more input about Districts projects, in order to eliminate the need for each District to develop, print and distribute its own report. NRICD decided that an annual report is a valuable tool to bring to local cities, towns and legislators. It was decided to continue to publicize District programs but to develop more of a fact sheet format with less narrative.**

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