

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District

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MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2009

7:00 PM

Paul called the meeting to order at 7:00.

In attendance were:

Directors: Paul Dolan, Norm Hammond, Dick Went, Louie Vinagro;

Associate Directors: Marc Tremblay, Ed Baker;

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

Absent were:

Director: Eugene Pepper, Associate Director: Jean Lynch.

I. Minutes

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

II. Financial Reports

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

III. Old Business

A. SWREP: Copies of the 6/30/09 year end report and a 5 year end report were available for review. The New Resident packets are being re-designed to improve presentation and lower postage. Scituate High School will be participating in the Adopt a Spot program on the section of Rockland Road where they installed a plunge pool. A well water workshop will be held at the Scituate Community House on September 29, 2009.

B. Lake Invasives Agreement: ESS has begun polemetry. NRICD will continue to monitor progress to make sure deadlines are being met.

C. Annual Dinner: A motion was made to award the 2009 Farm of the Year to Good Earth Gardening Center and a Chairman's award to Jane Christopher: Norm/Dick, unanimous.

IV. Reports

A. Chair: Paul will report on various items as they arise on the agenda.

B. SCC: At a meeting held on 8/6/09 it was reported that District

Boards were split evenly

between two options for consolidation. They are: 1) centralized completely or 2) to centralized administration while keeping staff at a District level. Eric will meet with Dick and Chip to determine how to meld the two options. In the meantime plans will begin to centralize administrative functions. FFOS: DEM has neither staff to complete an evaluation of the current method of determining recommended values for farms nor the funds to pay a consultant to do it. Funding will be requested from the Ag Collaborative since the FFOS program is a definite benefit to farmers. The FFOS subcommittee will meet to discuss the conservation plan format, the qualifications which will be required of TSP's, and the financial issues.

C. Envirothon: The competition was held in North Carolina and Coventry ranked 39th of 52 contestant teams. Score sheets are posted on the Envirothon website. Norm was inducted into the Envirothon Hall of Fame.

D. NRCS: Summary reports for EQIP, WHIP and AMA contracts in Providence County were distributed. A backlog of EQIP projects exists with the next round of funding possibly being available in October. The expectation is that there will be two funding cycles per year.

E. R C & D: Chris Modisette is looking for a letter of endorsement from the District to study and

develop a pilot program for a manure management/composting facility. A motion was made to provide that letter: Dick/Norm, unanimous.

F. RIFCO: A Twilight Woods Walk was held at Tillinghast Management Area and was attended by 35-40 people. An exhibit will be displayed at the Washington County Fair. The Annual Dinner is scheduled for 11/21/09 at the West Greenwich Elks Lodge.

G. RIACD: Dick met Representative Langevin at a town meeting in Foster and subsequently met with his staff in Washington, D.C. after attending the Northeast NACD conference.

NRCS has informed Dick that they will sign agreements directly with the Districts in the future and any administrative fees will go directly to them. The Association will no longer be able to count on this source of funding. The NRICD Board suggested that the Association submit a proposed budget and funding request to each District to generate a discussion of how to keep the RIACD viable.

The Outreach agreement with NRCS is being re-written and Paul Boisvert will complete some of the tasks.

H. RIRLA: Louie reported that members have processed more animals in the first 7 months of 2009 than in the entire 2008 calendar year. Currently there are 75

active members. Louie is pursuing a winter farmers market in the Scituate area.

I. District Manager: The District has purchased a new computer, Arc View 9.3, copier/printer and updated to Microsoft Office 2007.

V. New Business

A. The Livestock Inventory will be conducted under two contracts; DEM has committed \$42,000 and NRCS has committed \$ 55,000 for the next phase of the project which will be conducted in 6 towns by 3/31/10. The contracts are more detailed than previous agreements and will include street by street surveys, GPS coordinates for livestock owners, biosecurity risk assessments, manure management assessments and development of an Access database to organize information gathered. The aim is to conduct 20-30 interviews per town for the more detailed information/assessments. The NRCS contract for this phase is directly with the District (as is the DEM contract).

B. Independent Contractors: Discussion was tabled until the FFOS conservation plans issue is resolved.

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:30: Dick/Norm, unanimous.