

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District

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MEETING MINUTES

April, 2010

Chairman Paul Dolan called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Present: Directors: Paul Dolan, Norm Hammond, Dick Went, Eugene Pepper, Louis Vinagro; Associate Directors: Jean Lynch, Keith Rogers, District Manager Gina DeMarco;

Justin Tuthill, District Conservationist/NRCS;

Absent: Associate Director Ed Baker.

I. Minutes

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the March 3, 2010 meeting as presented: Norm/Dick, unanimous.

II. Financial Reports

A motion was made that the Board is in receipt of the reports: Dick/Norm: unanimous.

III. Old Business

A. Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program. Gina reported that the Scituate High School students are actively preparing for a community presentation that will take place on May 26th at 5 pm at SHS. It will include a presentation on GET WET!, a program where 105 students tested their well water and will research various parameters of well water issues with professionals this Friday and it will include the Forest Management Plan the Environmental Ed students are developing under the guidance of Chris Modisette and Paul Dolan. In addition Alyson McCann will provide a water quality workshop on June 10th to address concerns of residents in the watershed. A question came up as to when the samples were taken, was it before or after the first big storm? Gina will look into this.

B. Outreach Agreement CCPI – NRCS needed to discontinue this project

C. CIG – this project will be complete as of tomorrow night when Liz does the final presentation.

D. Ag Inventory/Bio Security – Liz completed the final report for RIDEM and submitted it, while the NRCS agreement goes through June 30th and will include inventory of Charlestown and Westerly. Gina met with RIDEM and NRCS today and they are working on an agreement to continue to project into the next phase this summer.

E. Seedling Program – Ramona has things under way and needs more help on the day of distribution, particularly Saturday. Norm and Janet will be there both days all day. Jean Lynch will help Friday from 9 –

12 and Lou can help Friday 12 – 3. We will make a display and all directors are encouraged to solicit new directors and interest people in the NRICD during the program. Also want to let people know about the award that RIFCO is offering for youth.

F. Strategic Plan – tabled for another month or so.

IV. Reports

A & B. Paul reported that the SCC meeting was postponed and there is not a new date as of yet.

C. NRCS – Justin passed out written conservation reports and a list of funds NRCS will be receiving. In addition to regular programs, NRCS has EWP funds on-going and are trying to buy easements. They may need someone to sponsor EWP and it may be the districts. There is a meeting Monday morning at 9 and a meeting this Thursday at 8:30. NRCS has sent letters to everyone who they have contracts with letting them know the EQIP is available to restore existing projects that may be damaged or EWP for new projects, and ECP is the Emergency Conservation Plan is also available. There is a meeting with Senator Reed next week.

B. NRCS

Conservationist Report distributed. 94 applications from NRI received to date. Districts will be conducting outreach workshops as part of

the Livestock Inventory agreement. A meeting with the Districts to discuss CCPI program will be scheduled.

NRICS is reorganizing statewide with a third DC being hired. NRCS will be developing a plan of work on a district level.

C. RC & D

They gave an award to Megg Kerr, the Wood Pawcatuck Assn. and Shartner Farm. They hired Peter Lockwood as an Urban Forester.

D. RDC – no report

E. RIFCO

They had a meeting last night. They are doing a spring program and it will be announced in the newsletter. It will be at Green Company – a cranberry bog, in Coventry. It is the 20th anniversary of RIFCO. Trying to spread the word about the youth award.

F. RIACD

Dick was part of the Farm Dream course. People loved it. He attended a roundtable at the RI Foundation for non-profits. He went to NELM in Portsmouth and there was a lot of discussion between NRCS & all states. Next year the meeting will be March 24 & 25. 43 people attended. Dick highly suggests attending this meeting. He went to the Land & Water Summit and it was very good. Spoke to Third Sector NE who may give a grant to train boards on strategic planning, \$2,500 available and if you do well with that another \$25,000

may be available. There is a webinar on May 10 from 10 – 11 am. Pocasset- Pooh would like NRICD to get involved in the Pocasset project. There may be money for outreach on this project. The two mayors are on board. Dick signed an agreement for the Indian Lake Project, 50K to help redo a fish ladder in South Kingstown. SRICD will be the general contractor. He has been speaking to Pooh about EWP and will go to training Thursday and Monday. NRCS will be doing damage assessment. An individual cannot apply for EWP must be a municipality or the district. Maintenance is not a good district responsibility.

G. RIRLA

Had annual meeting last week. 100 people turned out. Went well.

H. Envirothon – There is a meeting Thursday afternoon at 3:30 for regular membership. There will be a workshop on the current issue at Schartner Farm. The Envirothon competition will take place on May 21st at Pulaski Park. They are trying to hire a new coordinator & fundraiser.

I. District Manager

Gina went on a tour of the silver LEED building – FM Global in Johnston. At some point the board would like to tour this as well as the RIRRC.

V. New Business

Gina purchased and shared information on the DVD's on Sustainable Ag and Seed Engineering – they are available for members to borrow.

VI. Other

Dick has been attending lots of meeting with NACD et al. Dick feels NRICD has a lot going on that should be shared. He wants to send Gina to do a break out session at the NACD Regional Meeting. Board is interested in doing this and is hoping that the registration fee can be waived since Gina will be speaking at a breakout session. Dick will look into this. If it works with the budget we will do it.

Norm and Dick attended NELM and board agreed to reimburse them \$40 each when Ramona gets back.