

**Northern Rhode Island Conservation District**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**May 5, 2010**

**Chairman Paul Dolan called the meeting to order at 7:15.**

**Present: Directors: Paul Dolan, Norm Hammond, Dick Went, Eugene Pepper; Associate Directors: Jean Lynch, Keith Rogers, Marc Tremblay. District Manager Gina DeMarco; Justin Tuthill, District Conservationist/NRCS; Ramona LeBlanc, State Conservation Committee.**

**Absent: Director Louis Vinagro; Associate Director Ed Baker.**

**I. Minutes**

**A motion was made to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2010 meeting as presented: Dick/Gene, unanimous.**

**II. Financial Reports**

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

### **III. Old Business**

**A. Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program: The Water Festival was held on May 4 and was very well attended. In addition to usual activities, there was a performance by the Swamp Meadow Theatre, a presentation about the history of the Reservoir and presentations to poster contest winners by Lt. Governor Roberts and Pam Marchand, Chief Engineer PWSB.**

**The billboard will be on display beginning 5/31/10.**

**Plans for a rain garden at Ponaganset Middle School are underway and a site has been chosen.**

**Scituate High School will host a community event on 5/26/10 that will feature work students have done on both a forest management plan and the Get Wet Program.**

**On 6/10 there will be a Well Water Workshop at SHS as a follow up to the Get Wet program in which students tested their home well water.**

**B. Ag Inventory/Bio Security: The drive-by surveys are underway in Westerly and have been completed in Charlestown. Gina is working RIDEM and NRCS to continue to project into the next phase this summer. NRCS may include funding for District to do follow-up with contacts as their staff has been unable to take time to do so.**

**C. CIG: Finished and billed.**

**D. EWP: Conservation District participation as sponsor unlikely due to operation and management component of contracts.**

**E. Seedling Program: Raised approximately \$2700.00**

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

#### **IV. Reports**

**A & B. President/SCC: Paul reported that new process for FFOS farm conservation plans will go into effect on June 1. The possibility of doing a combined 3 District annual dinner will be discussed at RIACD meeting. Money to fund a training session for tax assessors regarding FFOS is being sought through a SARE. professional development grant**

**C. NRCS – Justin distributed the conservationist report in a new format. \$9 million has been allocated in Providence County as part of current funding period. NRCS is hiring two conservation interns and is advertising for another soil conservationist.**

**D. RC & D: An urban forester has been hired to work with DEM. NRCS will fund completion of SE & SC Handbook. RD & C has been asked to join Ag Collaborative. They made a \$500 donation to Envirothon. Looking for funding to continue Coverts program.**

**E. RIFCO: Spring program scheduled for 5/8/10.**

**F. RIACD: Dick reported that NACD is developing a new strategic plan and is looking for input from the Districts. He attended the Ag Partnership listening session in North Smithfield which was well**

attended. He is working on a grant proposal from RDC with Kristen Castrataro to fund an equipment bank for 2 years at \$250,000.00. SRICD is pursuing a grant from Ag Partnership to document land available from land trusts, et al for agricultural use. Dick is looking for input before the July NACD legislative conference in DC.

**G. RIRLA: No report.**

**H. Envirothon – There is a site committee meeting on 5/6/10. A new coordinator/fundraiser has been hired. NRICD Board authorized Liz to work on the Envirothon for a few days at District expense. The completion in on 5/21 at Pulaski Park.**

**I. District Manager: Gina received an email request from a Cumberland 3rd grader who was looking for information about his grandfather, former District Director Bill Bascom.**

**J. She and Chris Modisette have completed a series of assemblies with South Kingstown elementary school students (approximately 1500 participated).**

## **V. New Business**

**A. Fuss & O'Neill Grant: Jim Riordan has include \$5000.00 for NRICD to do public education component on a 319 grant that will focus on LID's.**

**B. EPA Grant: Liz will devote up to 80 hours to develop a grant proposal for a 5 year/\$2.5 million to develop an outreach and education training program to be implemented throughout US.**

**C. Summer Meeting Schedule:**

**June 2, 2010 4:00 at Dick Went's house**

**No July Meeting**

**August 4th at Ed Baker's house in Matunuck (subject to confirmation with Ed).**

**A motion to adjourn was made at 8:35: Norm/Gene.**