

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District

**17 Smith Avenue - Greenville, RI 02828 - Phone (401) 949-1480 - Fax
(401) 949-4436**

MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2011

Chairman Paul Dolan called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

Present: Directors: Paul Dolan, Dick Went, Eugene Pepper, Louis L. Vinagro III; Associate Directors: Norm Hammond, Marc Tremblay; Justin Tuthill, NRCS; District Manager Gina DeMarco; Ramona LeBlanc, State Conservation Committee.

I. Minutes

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the January 5, 2011 meeting: Dick/Louis, unanimous.

II. Financial Reports

A motion was made to acknowledge that the Board is in receipt of the financial report: Dick/Gene, unanimous.

III. Old Business

A. SRWEP:

- **GET WET! Chemistry Day is scheduled for February at Scituate High School. It will be a full day session in which 140 students test their well water in 6 parameters. The Gifted & Talented class will develop a presentation to showcase results. On March 9, 2011 a Research Day will be held to help students develop a Power Point presentation.**
- **Business Bulletin is in development. The first issue will deal with forestry products. The second issue will feature PWSB's forest management practices and their benefits. The third issue will focus on practical business practices.**
- **A well water workshop will be held at Scituate High School on March 10,2011.**
- **Classroom presentations have begun.**
- **Gina is looking for a venue for the photo contest display.**
- **On February 17, 2011 Forestry partners will meet at NRICD to discuss outreach to 2100+ landowners in the watershed.**

B. Ag Inventory: NRCS contract may be amended to include forestry landowners.

C. Building: Work is progressing quickly and is expected to be completed soon. The March Board Meeting will take place in the new building.

IV. Reports

A. Chair: DEM is developing a state tree poster which will be distributed to all public schools and libraries.

B. SCC: Meeting to be held on January 12, 2011

C. NRCS: The District Conservationist's Report was distributed.

- **The DSR for Pawtuxet approved for funding.**
- **DSR for Pocasset being summarized for submission for funding.**
- **A public meeting will be held on March 8, 2011 in Johnston (a similar meeting will be held in Cranston) TO DISCUSS Pocasset project.**
- **A new outreach agreement is pending with \$26,000 in funds available.**
- **Forestry will be funded through WHIP this year.**
- **87 EQIP, 67 WHIP applications to date in Providence County.**
- **Justin is working to develop a training session for NRCS partners at the end of March.**
- **Soil Health Workshop to be held in CT on March 17 & 18, 2011**
- **April 1, 2011 is the deadline for EQIP funding to be obligated.**

D. RC & D:

- **Meeting cancelled due to snow.**

E. RDC: Dean Kerby attended last quarterly meeting. Sen. Sue Sosnowski is submitting legislation to require RI to match federal funds for URI Cooperative Extension.

F. RIFCO: Estate planning workshop is scheduled for February 12, 2011 at the Radisson Airport Hotel.

G. RIACD:

- **3 NACD documents distributed.**
- **Ag Partnership strategic plan is still under revision.**
- **A \$740,000 grant proposal was submitted for an equipment bank feasibility study.**
- **NELM is on March 23 & 24, 2011**
- **Dick will not write any more grant proposals. Rather, he will inform Conservation Districts of opportunities and leave it to them to act.**

H. RIRLA:

- **Annual Meeting will be on March 28, 2011 at the East Greenwich Elks.**

I. Envirothon:

- **Meeting to be held on February 10, 2011 at Chopmist.**
- **Workshop scheduled for February 12, 2011 at the Audubon Society.**
- **2011 North American competition will be held in New Brunswick.**

J. District Manager:

- **Gina attended the NACD conference in Nashville.**
- **She will serve on stewardship subcommittee.**
- **Conservation District/ NRCS staff sharing seems to be a national trend.**
- **Farm Bill monies can be used for 319 match, although locally 319 funding is not used for conservation.**

- **The NACD recognizes the importance of Conservation District's role as non-regulatory, non-enforcement.**

V. New Business

A. RIACD MOU: A motion to accept and sign MOU was made: Gene/ Louis, unanimous.

B. SCC MOU: NRICD Board would like the consequences of a Conservation Districts failure to meet terms of contracts/ agreements to be stated. Further discussion tabled until comments/ suggestions from other CD's received.

C. Land & Water Summit: Will be held on March 26, 2011 and NRICD will pay registration fee for Board and staff who wish to attend.

D. RIACD Dues: A motion was made to match the SCC's 50% contribution towards NRICD's RIACD membership dues: Gene/ Louis, unanimous.

E. NOAA Grant: Water KNOT grant application is still under consideration.

F. Staffing: Liz's pending resignation and the volume of work over the next several months necessitates the creation of a new staff position and the need to hire someone soon. Liz will be asked to work on a job description.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.