

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District

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MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2011

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

**Present: Directors: Paul Dolan, Dick Went, Keith Rogers; Associate
Directors: 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 March 2, 2011
meeting: Dick/Keith, unanimous.**

II. Treasurer's Reports

**A motion was made to accept the reports as presented: Dick/Keith,
unanimous.**

III. Old Business

A. SRWEP:

- **Classroom presentations are under way with good participation.**
- **GET WET! Program culminated in a community night on 4/4 which was attended by over 200 people.**
- **Water Festival will be held at Camp Aldersgate on 5/3. All watershed elementary schools will participate.**
- **Forestry Outreach mailing to over 1600 watershed residents is complete.**

B. Ag Inventory:

Final DEM report was presented on 4/1/11.

DEM recommended changes to database which will be implemented.

NRCS contract continues to 9/30/11 and will be expanded to include outreach to forest land owners and nurseries within the current towns.

DEM will not be able to continue to fund project with APHIS funds in the new fiscal year.

C. Traceability Grant:

Work is complete.

D. Building/Champlin Grant:

NRICD will pursue a Chaplin Grant to exterior projects including handicap accessibility, insulation, replacement windows, gutters, demonstration gardens/landscaping.

Open House to be held on 5/25. A motion was made to allocate up to

\$350 for refreshments: Dick/Keith: unanimous.

E. Seedling Sale:

Final orders have been submitted to vendors.

IV. Reports

A. Chair: will comment as meeting progresses.

B. SCC: MOU and New NRCS agreement to be discussed later in meeting.

C. NRCS: District Conservationist's report distributed.

D. RC&D: planning an exit strategy as funding is unlikely to continue.

E. RDC: Nothing to report

F. RIFCO:

- 5/21 event has been approved by board.**
- A motion was made to allow RIFCO & RI Envirothon to use building for meetings. Keith/Dick: unanimous.**

G. RIACD:

- Dick has attended the Land/Water Summit & NELM.**
- Dick has met with Congressman Cicilline to discuss the Districts.**

- **RC&D will apply for a RI Foundation Grant to fund conservation districts strategic planning.**
- **Dick will ask the SCC to conduct a training for District Board members.**
- **Keith will use existing models to develop a RI certification training.**

H. RIRLA: Annual meeting well attended.

I. Envirothon: Competition to be held on 5/20. Fundraiser breakfast netted \$900.

J. District Manager:

- **Board authorized staff time to revise existing grant proposal for new EPA environmental education grant.**
- **Paul, Keith and Dick will serve on a subcommittee to develop a position description for Liz's position.**

V. New Business

A. NRCS/AgTech Agreement: New Outreach Agreement is signed and AgTechs will begin working at NRCS several days a week, assisting with client follow-ups. A third round of workshops will be held in each District, focusing on high tunnels and CAP's.

B. Strategic Planning: Board would welcome outside facilitation to update strategic plan.

**C. SCC MOU: A motion was made to accept MOU as revised:
Dick/Keith: unanimous.**

**D. Scituate Wetlands Remediation: Board recommended that town
hire an engineer to address soil erosion and sediment control.**

**E. Envirothon Request: A motion was made to donate \$500 to the RI
Envirothon: Dick/Kith: unanimous.**