

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District

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MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 7:14 pm.

Present: Directors: Paul Dolan, Dick Went, Keith Rogers; Associate Director: Marc Tremblay; NRCS: Justin Tuthill; District Manager: Gina DeMarco, Ramona LeBlanc, State Conservation Committee.

I. Minutes

A correction was made to the minutes of the April 6 meeting: the Envirothon breakfast raised \$900. Motion to accept with correction postponed pending a quorum.

II. Treasurer's Report

Discussion tabled pending a quorum.

III. Old Business

A. SRWEP:

- **100% of watershed classes attended the Water Festival. Providence Water was represented by Pam Marchand, Rich Blodgett and Christopher Riely. Swamp Meadow Theater presented a skit.**
- **Providence Water and RI National History Survey will sponsor a 24 hour event in which the wildlife at Joslin Farm will be observed and recorded. Dates are 6/9-10.**
- **Classroom Presentations are nearing completion.**
- **Business Bulletin has been published.**
- **Year end reports will be developed.**

B. Ag Inv/Biosecurity: Outreach packets will be developed to target forest landowners and nurseries in towns included in current agreement. Liz's replacement will be trained with a mock survey of a town.

C. NRCS Outreach: Liz is working to develop a series of workshops to be held in each district. The main focus will be high tunnels and forestry CAP's.

D. Champlin Grant: A grant was submitted requesting funding for insulation, replacement windows, a handicap parking area and entrance ramp, a new front entrance walkway, and new gutters.

E. Seedling Sale: The sale earned over \$3000 and all leftover seedlings and plants were donated to local schools/organizations.

IV. Reports:

A. Chair: State Tree poster has been distributed to every school and library in the state.

B. SCC: Meeting scheduled for May 9.

C. NRCS: District Conservationist written report distributed.

D. RC&D: Funding eliminated from federal budget. RC&D Council will need to find new office.

E. RDC: Sponsor of a CSA for seafood.

F. RIFCO: Sponsoring a walk at Snake Den State Park to celebrate National Walk in the Woods Day in conjunction with The RI Tree Council and NRICD.

G. RIACD:

- Dick organized a tour for Sen. Whitehouse's staff. They visited one of the farms involved in Rhody Warm, Dick's forest property, the demonstration rain garden in Scituate, Scituate High School's tree farm, and ended with a tour of a working farm. Sen. Reed's staff has requested a tour this summer.**

- The Ag Partnership's strategic plan for the state will be unveiled at Ag Day.**

H. RIRLA: No report.

I. Envirothon: Competition is 5/20 at Camp Grovsner.

J. District Manager:

- Local media covered poster and photo contests as well as the Water Festival.**

- **GSA will maintain current salary levels in next fiscal year.**
- **Liz's job has been posted in various venues. Deadline is 5/13.**
- **Staff will meet on 5/5 to discuss upcoming open house on 5/25.**
- **Information packets for potential Associate Directors will be developed and an ongoing Power Point presentation will be developed.**

V. Other:

- **A motion was made to accept the 4/6 minutes: Dick/Keith, unanimous.**
- **A motion was made to acknowledge receipt of financial reports. Keith/Dick, unanimous.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:10.