

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District

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MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2011

Chair Paul Dolan called meeting to order at 5:05.

Present: Directors: Paul Dolan, Dick Went, Keith Rogers, Louis Vinagro III; Associate Director: Marc Tremblay, Norm Hammond; NRCS: Justin Tuthill; NRICD: Elizabeth Berg, Kate Sayles; District Manager: Gina DeMarco, Ramona LeBlanc, State Conservation Committee.

I. Minutes

A motion was made to accept the May 4 meeting minutes as presented; Dick/Keith, unanimous.

II. Financial Report

A motion was made to acknowledge receipt of the reports; Dick/Keith, unanimous.

III. Old Business

A. SRWEP:

- **Business Bulletin and Neighbor to Neighbor packets are being developed.**
- **Classroom presentations are finished.**
- **Liz is working on year-end report.**

B. Ag Inv: Biosecurity kits have been distributed to 13 farms. Liz is updating database and Gina will meet with Chris Modisette to determine contents of packets to be distributed to woodland owners.

C. NRCS Outreach: Workshops on high tunnels and forestry CAP's are being conducted in each District this week.

IV. Reports:

A. Chair:

- **State Tree posters have been distributed to every school and library in the state. The Great Outdoor Pursuit and No Child Left Inside programs are underway.**

B. SCC:

- **The State Committee voted to post Director training module at the RIACD website. Each District will decide how to implement. NRICD voted to begin meeting half an hour earlier to go through training module.**
- **There is a meeting on 6/16 to discuss NRCS agreements with Phou.**

The next SCC meeting is July 14.

C. NRCS:

- **\$1.8 million have been earmarked to purchase seven (7) houses in Pocasset River flood plain. An RFD for a flood wall on Fletcher Ave. is being developed by the City of Cranston.**

D. RC&D:

- **Nothing to report.**

E. RDC:

- **Nothing to report.**

F. RIFCO:

- **Spring walk, co-hosted with NRICD, was successful.**
- **Next Board meeting will be held at the wood lot.**
- **A summer twilight meeting will be held in early August.**

G. RIACD:

- **A \$148 K grant is likely and will fund business planning for farm, a web tool to direct new farmers to resources available to them, and a feasibility study for an equipment bank.**
- **RIACD adopted a semi-yearly meeting schedule.**
- **The Ag Partnership is likely to get additional funding which will be channeled through RIACD.**

H. RIRLA:

- **Nothing to report.**

I. Envirothon:

- **Wheeler School won competition.**

J. District Manager:

- **New electrical outlets to accommodate air conditioners will be installed and quotes for pest control are being compared.**

V. New Business:

A. The Bio Blitz on 6/10-11 is being held at Joslin Farm. NRICD staff and Board are encouraged to participate.

B. NACD regional meeting will be held in Plymouth on August 7-9. Staff/Directors are authorized to participate.

C. SCC budget will be voted on at next SCC meeting. Any comments/suggestions for change in administrative function would be welcomed.

D. FFOS: When formula developed to determine farm values is applied to current data, resulting values are very high. The SCC would like to approach the Ag Partnership for funding and the EDC for technical support.

E. NRICD budget: tabled until next meeting.

VI. Other:

- **RIACD will need to determine who will work on feasibility study for an equipment bank if grant is received. Dick is discussing with other Districts.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:10.