

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District

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MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2011

Chair Paul Dolan called meeting to order at 7:00.

Present: Directors: Paul Dolan, Dick Went, Keith Rogers, Louis Vinagro III, Eugene Pepper;

Associate Director Jean Lynch; NRCS: Nina Bhattacharyya, Justin Tuthill; District Manager: Gina DeMarco; Ramona LeBlanc: State Conservation Committee; Tammy Cardilli, Guest.

I. Minutes: A motion was made to accept the June 1 meeting minutes as presented; Dick/Gene: unanimous.

II. Treasurers: A motion was made to acknowledge receipt of the financial reports; Dick/Gene: unanimous.

III. Old Business

A. SRWEP:

- PWSB has suggested agriculture as the theme for this year's**

programs. One addition will be Agriculture Bulletins to be distributed to watershed ag producers on a quarterly basis.

- Well Water Workshops are on hold until URI receives program funding from RI Dept. of Health.

B. Ag Inventory:

- Outreach to forest landowners is being developed with cover letter from the CD's which will promote NRCS programs.

- Recipients of the packet will be invited to a workshop at NRICD in September that will include a walk and talk in Snake Den conducted by Marc Tremblay and Chris Modisette.

- Kate is working on final report for NRCS and is completing a GIS tutorial.

C. Outreach: Kate is working on a compilation of various databases for NRCS.

IV. Reports

A. Chair: Paul attended NE NACD and forwarded some of the information from a tour of urban gardens in Boston to the Africa Alliance in PVD. Materials included topics in urban agriculture and forestry.

B. SCC: July meeting was held at SCC office. The first three conservation plans developed by each Ag Tech for FFOS will be

reviewed by NRCS staff. Proposed NRCS agreements may bring enough income to SCC to reduce monthly overhead contribution from each CD. If indirect rate changes it would decrease that benefit and it may be necessary to address a different ratio of how overhead costs are distributed.

C. NRCS: District Conservationist's report was distributed and included a summary of 2011 obligations by practice.

D. RC&D: Gerry Bertrand will act as coordinator on a temporary basis. A part-time coordinator will be sought to administer existing and potential grants.

E. RDC: Nothing to report.

F. RIFCO: A new strategic plan and vision statement are being developed. Current newsletter was distributed.

G. RIACD:

- A bi-annual meeting schedule has been adopted.
- Beginning Farmer/Rancher Grant has been funded and will commence on 9/1/11. A one year position will be created to conduct an equipment bank feasibility study. A coin toss will determine if position, which carries a small indirect fee, will be run through ERICD or SRICD.
- Dick has a meeting with RI Foundation for possible grant to fund

strategic plans for the CD's.

- **NE NCDEA will host a leadership meeting on 10/26-28.**

H. RIRLA:

- **A new scale has been purchased at processing plant.**
- **RIRLA will have a booth at Washington County Fair.**
- **Heidi Quinn was selected as Executive Director.**
- **Annual Dinner will be held on November 5.**

I. Envirothon: Pete Stetson was elected President and Liz Rogers was elected Vice-President. 2011 winners placed 10th nationally. The 2011-12 topic is LID.

J. District Manager:

- **Representatives from SMILE (Science & Math Initiative for Learning Enhancement) will meet with Gina on 9/17 to look at NRICD educational materials and Gina will address 32 teachers at a SMILE sponsored workshop (9/17) on non-point source pollution and the importance of watershed education.**

- **The “Do’s & Don’ts of the “as cited as one of the best in the nation at the NACD Regional meeting.**

- **On 9/15 the RI Foundation will sponsor a meeting to facilitate connection of young people willing to serve on Boards with**

conservation organizations.

V. New Business:

Tammy Cardilli of Ocean State Peeled Potatoes thanked the District for its role in having the SCC write a letter of support to the Town of Johnston on behalf of that company.

A. SCC 2011-12 Budget: The Budget is still not finalized for approval as NRCS contracts and associated indirect costs are still being negotiated.

B. NRICD 2011-12 Budget: A motion was made to accept the budget as presented as a proposed budget, with understanding that revisions may be required based on SCC's budget; Gene/Keith: unanimous.

C. NRCS Agreements: There are four agreements being negotiated: Ag Inventory, Ag Tech/Outreach, Engineering and Geese Abatement. Agreements need to be signed by 8/31/11 but details are still being finalized. It is uncertain that the indirect cost will be at the ratio of 20% as on the current agreements.

D. ERICD website: The Board views the NRICD website as public domain and has no objection to a web designer copying general CD information for ERICD's website.

E. Annual Dinner: Will be held on 9/28 at Salisbury Farm. Event will be BYOB and will be preceded by a Hay Ride/Farm Tour.

F. Farm Tours: Justin will develop a list of suitable candidates for Farm of the Year and corresponding tours. Paul will select a Chairman's Award as well.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.