

**Northern Rhode Island Conservation District**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**November 2, 2011**

**Chair Paul Dolan called meeting to order at 7:00. There was no quorum.**

**Present: Directors: Paul Dolan, Dick Went; Associate Director: Norm Hammond; NRCS: Stewart Taffe; NRICD: Amanda Clarke, Jean Lynch, Marc Tremblay, Ed Baker; District Manager: Gina DeMarco, Ramona LeBlanc, State Conservation Committee; Tysh McGrail, Woodscapes, Inc.**

**I. Minutes: Tabled until there is a quorum.**

**II. Financial Reports: Tabled until there is a quorum.**

**III. Old Business**

**A. SRWEP:**

- Following farm visits to Confreda and Urban Edge Farms arranged by NRICD for Governor Chaffee and DEM Director Coit, SHS students**

visited Pine View Farm in Scituate with Gina, PWSB and NRCS. They also visited Baldwin Farm, an 80 acre property in the watershed that PWSB would like to return to agricultural use. The Environmental Science class will work on plans for the farm that may include forestry, agriculture, wildlife habitat and/or residential development. One of the plans may be adopted for implementation. Several guest speakers will address the class on various elements to be considered.

- **Get Wet!** program will be conducted at SHS again this year.
- **Teacher packets** for this year's theme, "Connecting Water, Community & Food," have been printed.

#### **B. 2011 NRCS Agreements:**

- **Ag Inventory:** Gloucester and Scituate are being resurveyed to update database and distributed information packets to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest landowners. Five other towns have been selected for full surveys in spring 2012.
- **Outreach:** In addition to working with new NRCS clients through the application process, the Districts will conduct a series of workshops or NRCS program. The 1st workshop will be during the first week of December and NRICD will host one at Cumberland Public Library on 12/5 at 6:30.
- **Engineering:** SCC will hire engineering tech to complete Level I & II practices for NRCS.
- **Rivers:** Watershed Assessments will be conducted in ERICD.
- **Geese Abatement:** Agreement has also been renewed – no NRICD

**personnel will be involved.**

**C. Urban Initiative:**

- **In response to Board's interest in a role for NRICD in urban gardening, Gina has been investigating a Community Food Competitive Grant. She will focus on an oversight grant that has no match required.**

**IV. New Business:**

**A. Building:**

- **Estimates for installation of external oil tank and snow removal will be sought.**

**B. Annual Report:**

- **Paul will have draft for Chair's letter by 11/8.**

**V. Reports:**

**A. Chair: Paul will report as meeting progresses.**

**B. SCC: Next meeting is 11/9 at 9:00.**

**C. NRCS: District Conservationist's report was distributed.**

- **Forty-two (42) 2012 applications on file.**
- **\$1000 eligibility requirement eliminated for EQIP.**

#### **D. RC&D:**

- **Eric Scherer has been hired as Executive Director.**
- **A part-time administrator for urban farmer has been hired.**
- **Eric wants to develop a social network cooperative effort with Conservation Districts.**
- **Chris Modisette was recognized as Outstanding Coordinator and Kat Zuromski for Outstanding Program at regional meeting.**

#### **E. RDC: Meeting postponed.**

**F. RIFCO: Annual Dinner to be held on 11/19. A workshop on forestry/wetlands will be held on 1/22.**

#### **G. RIACD:**

- **Farm Bill funding not yet passed.**
- **Congressman Langevin will host a round table discussion of the Farm Bill on 11/28.**
- **NACD Annual Meeting will be in Las Vegas in January.**
- **Next RIACD meeting in on 11/14 at 4:30. It is an election meeting.**

#### **H. RIRLA: No report.**

#### **I. Envirothon:**

- **Forestry and soils workshop was held and attended by three new schools.**

- **Winter meeting (1/28 & 29) in Las Vegas.**
- **National Competition will be held in PA 7/22 – 28/12. It is the silver anniversary of the Canon Environthon.**

**J. District Manager:**

- **Gina has been invited to speak at NACD meeting in Las Vegas. PWSB will pay 1/3 of cost and Gina will seek grant/stipend to offset rest of cost.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00.**