

**Northern Rhode Island Conservation District**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**June 6, 2012**

**Chair Paul Dolan called the meeting to order at 7:02.**

**Present: Directors: Paul Dolan, Dick Went, Eugene Pepper, Louis Vinagro III, Jean Lynch; Associate Directors: Marc Tremblay, Norm Hammond; District Manager: Gina DeMarco; NRCS: Justin Tuthill; State Conservation Committee: Ramona LeBlanc, Jill Osgood; Visitor: Adam LeBlanc.**

**The meeting started with a Conservation District video presented by Adam LeBlanc and Gina DeMarco. The video was a draft intended to market the districts as the first point of contact for the public to learn about and participate in conservation and NRCS programs and practices. The board was asked what they liked about the video, what they didn't like, what was needed, what stood out, how to improve, etc. Gina is looking into expanding use of the video for cable TV, Public Service Announcements, etc. Comments and suggestions should be directed toward Gina and Adam.**

**I. Minutes:** Minutes and notes of previous meeting were accepted as on file. Dick/Gene; unanimous.

**II. Financial Reports:** A motion was made to accept the Financial Reports as presented. Dick/Paul; unanimous. The FY 2012-2013 Budget was presented. A motion was made to acknowledge receipt of the budget and recognize it as a working budget. Paul/Dick; unanimous.

### **III. New Business**

**A. Conservation District Film:** see above.

**B. 2012-2013 Budget:** see above – Financial Reports.

**C. RCD Office Agreement:** Paul reported that he is working on an agreement between RCD and NRICD for the use of an office space in the Northern District building. RCD will contribute 25% of the overhead expenses paid to the RI State Conservation Committee.

### **IV. Old Business**

**A. SRWEP:** Gina reported that the school programs have wrapped up for the year. The billboards will be up in July. She is looking into borrowing the NACD logo, “Where does your water shed?” for one of her programs.

**B. NRCS Agreements:**

**1. Ag Inventory:** Ramona reported that Kate has completed Ag

**Inventory for Bristol & Warren and she is working on the aerials for Middletown & Cranston.**

**2. Outreach: Kate has completed the third workshop at Confreda Farm. There is a workshop scheduled in July at Watson Farm.**

**3. EWP – Pocasset: Johnston will use their own labor and equipment and Cranston has identified three sites and will use outside contractors for the work.**

**C. Building Walkway: No report.**

**D. PASA Grant: No report.**

## **V. Reports:**

**A. Chair: No new business to report.**

**B. SCC: Ramona reported that several biographies have been collected for the Resource Library portfolio.**

**C. NRCS: A written report was submitted. Justin reported that the Third Round closed on 6/1/2012. They received 45-48 applications at approximately \$250,000.**

**D. RC&D:**

**1. Paul reported that the New York/New England Initiative is looking for a contractor. RC&D is reviewing NRCS practices to make it easier for the public to apply for plans. They are acting as a Quality Control entity. They are also working on a Sediment Control Handbook.**

**2. The RC&D Council is looking for someone to fill the position for the Northern District. A motion was made for Mark Tremblay to fill the**

**position; the motion was withdrawn. A new motion was made to appoint Mark as the representative and Dick as an alternate. Gene/Louis; unanimous.**

**E. RDC: No new business to report.**

**F. RIFCO:**

**1. The August 14th workshop, "Summer Twilight," will feature a factory representative of geo-textile products who will demonstrate the product features and uses.**

**2. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sept. 22nd at Broad Oak Farm. There will be a forestry walk, pond fishing, etc.**

**G. RIACD:**

**1. Dick Went reported that the Farm Bill moved to the floor today; there are a few issues that may delay it passing into law. Dick sent out talking points via e-mail.**

**2. Ag Partnership: A meeting is scheduled for June 7th to discuss the reorganization of the agreement.**

**3. Ken Payne has filled Tom Sandham's vacated position and is focusing on economic studies including a Forestry Impact Study.**

**4. Dick attended a DEM Land Link meeting today. All concerned were interested in the website and DEM is looking for a broker to coordinate the implementation of the project. Dick volunteered the districts for this task.**

**H. RIRLA: Louis reported that their annual dinner was held last month at Addieville East. There has been no progress on the beef wholesale issue.**

**I. Envirothon: Norm reported that there were 12 teams in attendance**

at the Goddard Park event. The winning team will compete in the Canon North America Envirothon in PA.

**J. District Manager:** Gina reported that the district was offered a grant from DEM for \$21,225 to start immediately and run to 3/31/2013.

The district must accomplish three goals: 1. Visit 75 farms (list provided by DEM), at minimum, to offer “Bio Security” education to local farmers; 2. Supply ID tags for those farmers who participate in the program, and 3. Offer Outreach to farmers concerning programs available to them. The board asked Gina to remove all (Bio Security) perceived regulatory obligations in the agreement, specifically distributing and recording data for the animal ID tags.

**VI. Other Business:** Gene made a motion to pay up to \$575.00 for NACD dues. Dick seconded; passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm.