

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District

2283 Hartford Avenue, Johnston RI 02919 - Phone (401) 943-0842 -

Fax (401) 943-0843

MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2013

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

Present: Directors: Paul Dolan, Dick Went, Jean Lynch, Eugene Pepper; Associate Directors: Marc Tremblay; Norm Hammond, District Manager, Gina DeMarco, NRCS: Justin Tuthill; RI State Conservation Committee: Debra Aiello.

Minutes: A motion was made to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Dick/Jean; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made to accept the financial reports as presented. Dick/Eugene; motion passed.

Old Business:

SRWEP (Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program (New

Grant Opportunities 319 National Fish and wildlife)

“Neighbor to Neighbor” packets went out to the the towns of Scituate, Foster and Gloucester. Johnston has not submitted the names of new residents yet.

Elementary Program: Letters went out to all elementary schools to set up annual presentation. The town of Johnston was the first to sign up; Brown Avenue School is now participating.

“Get Wet” will take place on February 14th. Gina will be going out to the Scituate schools to have the students participate in the program.

“Where does your Watershed” poster contest literature has been sent out to all the schools.

The 319 Grant will provide funding for a stormwater project in Scituate Village. The grant is a partnership between the NRICD, PW and the Town of Scituate PW will put up most of the match. The funds will be used to create a rain garden and parking lot LID improvements at the Town Hall in the village of North Scituate.

Amanda from the Forest Guild wrote a grant to expand the work we are doing in the Scituate Reservoir Watershed. It will include an expansion to the water festival – to allow urban children to participate and work along with Scituate High School.

Dame Farm/ Office space:

The Historical Society wants to pass on the history of Dame Farm to the board.

The Parks and Recreation office will be moving their office to North Kingstown in June. They asked if NRICD would be interested in moving the offices to their building once they have moved out. The building is wheelchair accessible and there is more available office space. The bathrooms would have to be upgraded to provide handicap accessibility. A motion was made to give the okay to move NRICD office to the Parks and Recreation building. Dick/Eugene.

NRCS:

EWP money is available to the state to help with the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. The RISCC is planning to outreach to the towns, using funding from the NRCS outreach agreement.

Board Recruitment:

Information packets were passed out to all board members (The Basic Responsibilities for Nonprofit Board) and (Recruiting and vetting nonprofit Boards). Board members were asked to review packets. Some of the suggestions incorporated is the idea to plan an annual retreat with all the districts to share ideas.

Policy Sub- Committee:

The Sub-committee asked for assistance from an outside group to

review policies for all three districts.

New Business:

A. Board Elections:

1. The board will review the candidates that are up for election. A motion was made to recruit new members in the spring, and hold elections in the fall. Dick/Jean; motion was passed.

B. Envirothon Request for funds:

1. A motion was made to donate 500.00 to the Envirothon. Gene/Dick

V. Reports:

A. Chair Report:

See reports.

RI SCC:

A process is developing by which current enrollees of the FFOS program are asked to provide a copy of their current conservation plan. They recommend a plan The board will be creating a database for properties enrolled since 2005.

Two fee for service flyers will be developed from the list of services.

One will focus on watersheds and one on land management.

Ken Ayars asked that we have the SCC/CD memorandum of understanding reviewed.

RIACD submitted a letter requesting that legislative changes be made to the CD's to increase Board size.

A series of four workshops on small scale forestry will be held in Scituate, Gloucester, Foster and Burrillville in March.

A plan for the Outreach agreement was submitted at the end of November.

Our engineering technician will be developing a design for remediation of a site at Mount Hope High School in Bristol that consistently floods.

NRCS:

Twenty five applications were approved.

Providence County was not declared a disaster area after Hurricane Sandy and is therefore not eligible for EWP.

Blackstone Fish Passage bid came back excessively high

State Contract Cancellation and Termination policy will be changing and will potentially seeking liquidated damages.

A hiring freeze is in place –agency preparing for possible sequestration.

Program training is scheduled for February 18, 2013-District staff is invited to attend.

RC&D:

RI Resource Conservation Area awards will be given out at a reception at Richards Pub, East Greenwich on February 20th at 5:00pm. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Paul Dolan, Area Director at rirce2283@gmail.com or 401-500-0399.

RDC:

1. No report

RIFCO:

1 A workshop on Woodlot Business Management will be held on February 16, 2013. The meeting will be held at the West Greenwich Library.

G. RIACD:

1. Partnership meeting was approved. The ag-laws and terms definitions are being worked on a will be submitted to the legislation for action.

2. Dick would like to send a note to the association to get permission to have Ramona be a signatory on the checks when Dick is unavailable.

3. March meeting will be March 13th prior to the State Committee Meeting.

4. The NACD NE leadership meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2013. The North East Meet

5. The North East meeting will be held in Dover Delaware.

H. RIRLA: Nothing reported

I. Envirothon:

1. The meeting this year will be held in San Antonio Texas. Funding will no longer be available for state team competitions. The cost will be 3,000.00 for each team to go to Georgia in 2014 (not including travel).

J. District Manager:

1. RI DEM Division of Ag Grant: the traceability grant was awarded in the amount 27,500.00 and will be awarded to the RI SCC rather than NRICD since it is statewide.

2. Kate and Amanda Clarke along with Justin have been working on activating social media.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 6th at 7:00pm.