

**Northern Rhode Island Conservation District**

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**May 1, 2013**

**7:00 pm**

**Minutes**

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

**Present: Directors: Paul Dolan, Dick Went, Jean Lynch; Associate Directors: Norm Hammond; District Manager: Gina DeMarco; NRCS: Justin Tuthill; NRICD Staff: Becca Buckler; RISCC: Debra Aiello.**

**I. Minutes: A motion was entertained to accept the Minutes of the April meeting as presented. Dick/Jean; unanimous.**

**II. Treasurer's Reports: A motion was entertained that the Board was in receipt of the financial reports. Dick/Jean; unanimous.**

**III. New Business:**

**IV. Old Business:**

**A. Seedling program:**

**1 The Seedling Program brought in a profit of 293.00. Gina informed the board that a few individuals coming to pick up seedlings showed an interest in becoming involved with the Northern District Board. She thought it was a great way to connect with the public.**

**B. S.R.W.E.P.:**

- 1. The winning poster was chosen and a press release went out.**
- 2. The “Get Wet” program has been completed.**
- 3. The “Rain Garden Project” on the Town Hall property is complete and the gutters are connected. The project drew a lot of attention from the people in the town. Approval was given by the town to put up a display with informational sheets; to share rain garden information to the public.**
- 4. The “Water Festival” is scheduled for May 7th; awards will be presented.**
- 4. 319 Grant- The funds will be used to create Ten Rain Gardens throughout the town of Scituate.**

**C. Board Recruitment:**

- 1. The Seedling Sale Program brought in a few potential candidates.**
- 2. A motion was made to draft a letter to all Board members addressing the past years monthly meeting absentee matter: Dick/Jean, unanimous.**

**D. Dame Farm:**

**1. A meeting about the Dame Farm draft lease agreement is scheduled for May. An affiliate of DEM will be there to go over the details and answer any questions relating to the lease. Ken Ayars will take along a draft agreement to get final remarks.**

**V. Reports:**

**A. Chair: Nothing to report**

**B. RI SCC:**

**1. Engineering- Within the next two weeks Ramona is planning to meet with Amanda to look at the remaining deliverables in the agreement to determine how much time is required to complete project.**

**2. Waterways- A design drawing for flood mitigations construction at Mt. Hope High School has been submitted to town of Bristol for permit purposes.**

**3. Outreach- The next round of workshops is planned. Kate is working on a new EQIP flyer and Becca is coordinating with Walter Marshall to put out a series of billboards.**

**4. Meetings: The RISSC meeting has been rescheduled to May 23rd at 8:30 am. A meeting was held on April 29, 2013 with staff and Board members.**

**C. NRCS:**

**1. 49 contracts have been obligated to date in FY 2013**

## **2. Upcoming trainings:**

**&#61607; Bird ID at Trustom NWR on May 9th**

**&#61607; CPA52 Webinar, May 19th**

**&#61607; Plant ID on June 14th**

**&#61607; Xerces/NRCS Pollinator Training- East Farm on September 12.**

**3. Urban Farming – NRCS would need an initiative for Urban Farming. It is a new frontier, possibly the district could provide assistance with in the future.**

**4. Some administrative and financial management positions will be regional or nationalized through a streamlining convergence initiative.**

**D. RC&D: No Report**

**E. RDC: No Report**

**F. RIFCO: A workshop will be held on May 18th at the South Kingston Gun Club.**

**G. RIACD:**

**1. A meeting is scheduled for May 13th at 4:00.**

**2. The BFR Grant is nearly finished.**

**3. Rural Energy: A meeting will take place at Confreda Farms in Cranston.**

**4. Dick reported that he had a meeting in Washington concerning**

**compliances: allowing farmers the opportunity to get back into compliance.**

**H. RIRLA: No Report**

**I. Envirothon- The Envirothon will take place on May 21st.**

**J. District Manager- Gina would like to set up a Budget committee meeting.**

**K. Other:**

**1. Jean Lynch scheduled a meeting with the governor for May 15, 2013 at 2:30. The meeting is concerning the Belfield Drive Project.**

**2. Cornell University- Dick reported on a grant on Soil Health Management could theoretically go to districts for testing/ outreach.**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm. The next meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2013.**