

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District Board Meeting (NRICD)

Minutes

February 9, 2016

Jean Lynch

Norm Hammond

Marc Tremblay

Paul Dolan

Dick Went

Amie Parris

NRICD Staff:

Gina DeMarco

Michelle Place

Kate Sayles

Naomi Andrews

Natural Resource Conservation Service(NRCS) Staff:

Leo Smock Randall

Meeting was called to order at 4:25 pm by Chairman Marc Tremblay

I. Minutes:

- A. Motion by Dick/2nd by Jean to accept

II. Treasurers Report:

- A. A motion made by Dick/2nd by Amie to accept the treasurer's report.

III. Old Business

A. Snake Den Farm (SDF)–

- 1. Bio Blitz- Contribution of \$3000 donation. Kate to look for in-kind or ask State for funds.

B. Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Protection (SRWEP)-

- 1. Get Wet Program- Visiting SHS 5 times through the close of school.
- 2. Poster contest information was delivered to all the participating schools.
- 3. Well water workshop postponed until 2/22.
- 4. Gina attended training on a cesspool phase out program at the RI League of Cities and Towns.
- 5. Scituate Conservation Commission is considering hiring a manager for Lawton farm.

C. NRCS projects- Naomi getting up and running with Ag Tech.

- 1. Outreach- Working with Hope Associates (a non-profit in Scituate) to hold a workshop March 23rd.

IV. Reports –

A. Chair- No report

B. Rhode Island State Conservation Committee(RISCC)- -no report

C. NRCS - Leo presented his report

1. Farm Bill Applications- 250 application in by Feb 2016
2. Conservation Stewardship Program- New minimum payment of \$1500 for all contracts.
3. EQIP- (Environmental Quality Initiatives Program)-Initiatives include scrub/shrub habitat, monarch & native bees habitat & urban agriculture

D. RI Resource Conservation & Development- Coverts workshop scheduled May 6,7

E. Rhode Island Foresters Conservator's Organization(RIFCO)- Starting a Saturday workshop series

F. Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts (RI ACD)

1. Professional Training & Board training
2. Conservation Boot camp training will be available through NRCS for technical employees.

G. Envirothon-

1. Have 6 High School teams and 1 middle school team

H. District Manager-

1. Career day at East Providence High School on March 15.
2. Meeting with Roger Williams University to work on sustainability projects.
3. Motion by Dick/2nd by Amie to accept farm designation plan for Marvin Natiger.

V. New Business

A. Grant Applications

1. America the Beautiful-awarded this grant- Fiscal agent for Scituate High School.
2. Farm Viability grant- all districts working on for Outreach.

B. NRCS- Providence County appraisal was performed to evaluate NRCS technical assistance to districts and clients in Providence County.

C. 403b/retirement plan. Not sure if eligible. Gina to do more research.

D. FLY into DC- conference to meet with legislators. Motion by Dick/2nd by Amie to pay Jeans way.

E. New England Leadership meeting- March 21-22. Naomi will go.

F. Seedling sale- April 23. Ideas were discussed as possible sale items ie: bat houses or vertical gardens.

Michelle to finish brochures and order items.

3. Next month will meet TUESDAY, March 8 at 4:30 pm.

Motion by Dick/2nd by Jean to adjourn at 5:45 pm