

Northern RI Conservation District (NRICD) Board Meeting

Minutes December 19, 2017

Present:

Executive Directors:

Marc Tremblay Matt Tracy

Dick Went Jean Lynch

Associate Director: Paul Dolan

NRCS:

NRICD Staff:

Gina DeMarco

Molly Allard Kate Sayles

Guest:

Mark Allio, works for City of Central Falls – Interest in Freshwater Invasives

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Chairman Marc Tremblay

I. Minutes:

A. Motion by Dick/2nd by Jean to approve with the correction to Matt's name to Tracy.

II. Treasurers Report:

A. Motion by Dick/2nd by Jean to receive the financial report.

III. Old Business

A. Snake Den Farm –

1. 6 applications for the RFP for farmland has been received yet. 5 viable, LASA grant calls for 2 – 3.
2. Second floor tenants are staying for another year.
3. Kate is working with Conservation Law to get the farm organized into a cooperative group.
4. Board agreed tenants could have a cat.
5. Monthly payments to NRICD will increase to \$500 per month.
6. Plowing – Dan of Green Wizard will plow
7. RIDEM will supply a porta john for the Hartford Ave. expansion of land.

B. Scituate Reservoir Watershed- Education Program

1. Poster Contest info has gone out
2. Ponagansett HS extended a forestry project looking into 49 acres to have a Forest Management Plan done by students. AP Science and Ag working on it.

C. NRCS-

Kate Bousquet has been hired as a soil con for NRCS and will work for Northern part of state along with Morgan.

1. Outreach-
 - a. January 23 Hope Associates in Scituate and January 31 in Exeter Public Library- workshops to be held.
2. EWP -Waiting on appraisals to come in from Washington DC.
4. RCPP Soil Health- Kevin Omerod is working on this and it is moving along well.
6. RCPP - Regional Forestry- Meeting with Audubon on 10/23
7. RCPP Farm Conservation Plans – Naomi is working with Eric Boettger to develop the template that will be followed for all future Farm Conservation Plans. Working also with RIDEM for Data base Development.

IV. Reports

- A. Chair- Marc stressed that board development is very important.
- B. RI State Conservation Committee-A climate change workshop is being planned for the Land Water Summit. Paul Dolan will be presenting on healthy forest management along with Scott Millar. Alyson Hamil's interns developed a district promotional video which was viewed at the RISCC meeting. Paul Dolan's term is up and he is not seeking re appointment to the RISCC. He was thanked for his many years of service in this capacity.
- C. NRCS- 40 new applications to serve before February.
- D. Envirothon-May 18 is competition. Feb 10 special topic. March 24 field part. Motion passed to fund \$500 to Envirothon. Dick/Jean.
- E. R C & D - Farm Energy Grant going well. 6 grants passed through \$120,000. New grant is a combo for NRCS. CIG Forestry for the Birds is signed into agreement.
- F. RIFCO- Woodland series on Saturdays in Feb and into March. Bill Fortune was replaced by Dick Went for President of RIFCO.
- G. RIACD- NACD annual meeting is at the end of January. Dick has NCPP meeting in Nashville. Dick resigned as President of RIACD giving a 1 year notice. In the future NRCS would like to write one grant to one agency instead of multiple grants to multiple agencies within our partnership. Pooh would like that to be RIACD. Important for all district boards to decide if they want to move in that direction. Need board and officers to step up to replace Dick. National Planning is moving along and Jan. 4 all staff VTC.
- H. NACD- Possible national meeting in RI in near future.
- I. District Manager- Capacity building with NE NACD is interesting and Gina is sitting on this committee.

V. New Business:

A. Grant Proposals

Molly would like to work on a grant proposal to America the Beautiful with Shannon of Scituate High School. A small grant to plant apple trees at the school. Motion to pursue passed Jean/Dick.

Moly also reported on a NOAA grant pre-proposal she is submitted. K – 12 education program to increase literacy and resiliency of extreme weather events. Statewide. Grant is very competitive. Create a statewide programs similar to SRWEP tailored to extreme weather events – impacts on drinking water supplies, ag threats, etc.

B. Board Development – Get more entrenched with professors of local colleges and get younger people involved. Send Kate and Molly to Green Drinks to network and stir up interest.

C. Winter Board Meetings – We will be holding winter meetings at a different location due to snow and ice concerns associated with the office building. Suggestions included Greenville Library, Rochambeau Library and Central Falls Libray.

Adjourn: Motion by Dick/2nd by Jean at 6 pm.

