

**Meeting Minutes
for
December 9, 2004**

Ted called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

In attendance: Directors- Richard Hart, Emerson Wildes, Walter Elwell, Ted Comerford. ERICD: Tom Sandham, Justine Calcina. NRCS: not present due to meeting notice error.

I. Minutes

Motion made to approve the October minutes- approved unanimously.

II. Reports

Chair:

The Eastern District may be administering the minutes and agenda for the RI Association meetings. Few people showed up for the December meeting, therefore a new meeting will be scheduled for this month.

Peter Ginaitt may no longer chair the State Conservation Committee due to the Separation of Powers bill that passed in November elections.

Treasurer's:

The directors accepted the treasurer's reports for October and November 2004. The adjusted balance ending for November 30 in Bank of Newport checking account was \$18,581.33. The Smith Barney account balance ending was \$5,310.05.

District Manager:

Grazing Land Incentives Program- Tom attended the Farm Viability meeting at DEM, where he spoke about the Grazing Land Incentive Program. An experimental cover grass planted at a local farm is sprouting nicely. A workshop on fencing practices for grazing lands is scheduled for the future. Also scheduled will be a 'field day' at Eight Rod Farm.

Tom met with Ken Ayars of the Division of Ag to discuss whether two local landowners will be included into the Farm, Forest, and Open Space program. It appears they will now be included in the program.

The annual meeting was a success. The cost to the District for the event should be less than \$200.00.

Tom attended the diversity conference in Texas. He presented a

report at the RI Association meeting. Districts are encouraged to expand their interests to include a diverse range of agricultural operators, in addition to expanding their cultural diversity.

Tom attended the State Technical meeting. A new financial criteria has been set for the EQIP program, \$2500.00 is now the minimum income requirements into the program.

Tom is helping a local resident apply for a Sustainable Ag Resource Education grant (SARE).

Brown University and the RIDEM Div of Ag are promoting a new interactive website that will connect local farmers with institutions in need of produce. Farmers will post what is available. The website is <http://www.locallygrownfood.com>.

NRCS may have EQIP funds available to address local water quality issues by working with farmers to improve manure management on their properties in the Palmer & Kickemuit Rivers.

Project Coordinator:

Justine has been working on the Annual Report, now complete. The septic brochure has been sent to Save the Bay for comments. The steering committee for the Allin's Cove project should begin to meet after the new year. She is also working on finishing the open space map for the Town of Warren.

III. Old Business- none.

IV. New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and approved to pay the National Association of Conservation District's annual dues in the amount of \$775.00.

Motion was made, seconded, and approved to pay \$344.00 for workers compensation.

Four potential people have expressed interest in becoming board members. They will be invited to next months board meeting.

New business contracts with NRCS

V. Other

The RI Association will pick up expenses for the NACD annual meeting. The board voted unanimously for Ted to attend the annual meeting, with credit card expenses to be reimbursed by the Association- Unanimous approval.

Motion to adjourn 9:00 p.m.