

Meeting Minutes

for

March 10, 2005

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: Justin Tuthill. Guests: Suzanne Hourihan, Jane Escobar.

I. Minutes

Motion made to approve the January minutes- approved unanimously.

No meeting was held in February.

II. Reports

Chair:

Ted attended the New England ? conference with Judy. Regional equity was the main topic for New England states; it appears there may be less federal funding in the upcoming years.

Treasurer's:

The directors accepted the treasurer's reports for December 2004. The adjusted balance ending for February 28th in the Bank of Newport checking account was \$25769.74. The Smith Barney account balance ending was \$5230.97.

District Manager:

Tom will give a Jamestown grazing lands tour to attendees of the NRCS Technical Conference being held this summer.

Tom attended the grazing TSP conference in New Hampshire. The topic of buffers was also discussed?

Tom attended the League of Cities and Towns conference. Few people from East Bay attended this year.

Tom is working closer with the Towns to clear up any discrepancies in the FFOS program.

Tom is putting together a list of appointees to the State Conservation Committee.

Tom received a new laptop, funded by a grant.

Tom met with Julie Forgue from Newport Water. He would like to establish relationship with her, and has asked Justine to set up a

meeting to discuss the possibility of making a brochure.

Project Coordinator:

Justine will take over coordination duties for the RI Association.

Justine presented the board the draft open space and coastal access brochure she has been working on for the Town of Warren.

NRCS:

Justin indicated more NRCS activity in the field, with the approaching warmer weather. Ranking deadlines for the EQIP program are. The Grassland Reserve Program payouts are \$15.00 per acre. Tom's new laptop computer will make it easier to access information in the field.

III. Old Business- none.

IV. New Business

Tom gave a brief overview of the District's history and the process for becoming a board member to the three guests who have expressed interest in becoming directors. Tom mentioned the need for more director representation from Aquidneck Island.

Tom distributed two handouts, one on Tree Assistance, and one on

Ewe Lamb program. Walter suggested the District mail this info to our mailing list. However it was mentioned that the USDA and FSA already inform most farmers on such programs.

Motion made, seconded and approved for Tom to attend the League of Cities & Towns Conference in Warwick, along with the other two RI districts.

V. Other

Motion made, seconded and approved to send a letter to Gerry Bertram for support of the beef marketing grant.

Motion to adjourn 9:00 p.m.