

Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2005

ERICD Directors present: Edward Comerford, Walter Elwell, Emerson Wildes.

ERICD staff: Tom Sandham, Justine Calcina.

NRCS: not present.

I. Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Minutes

Minutes for the August meeting were approved unanimously by all directors in attendance. No meeting was held in September.

III. Reports

a. Treasurer's

No report since the Treasurer was absent due to an illness.

b. District Manager

Tom attended a workshop at UMass Amherst for beef grazing operations. He considered the workshop helpful to his current beef project.

A beef marketing meeting is being held on October 24th. This will be an important meeting. One of the major issues will be to find a USDA-certified processing center for the beef. Tom is working with DEM to determine a total count of current RI beef operations. Indications show that there is a market for local beef. Also, a Jamestown farmer has begun to sell his beef locally.

Tom attended the State Tech meeting held at NRCS. He reported that there is a difficulty of getting interest in projects the Bristol County. The AMA program could use more money. Also, there is an effort to get contiguous properties enrolled in the GRP program, as a protection for smaller farms. The CSP program could be beneficial to RI in the future.

c. Project Coordinator

Justine is working on the signage for the Newport Water Department and is also creating a logo for them. She is also working on the annual report for 2004-5.

d. NRCS

Absent from this meeting.

III. Old Business- none.

IV. New Business

Ted asked about the status of the NACD 'Legislative Workshop' to be held in RI for the New England region District directors. Tom stated he would contact Krista Harding from NACD as there has not been any recent news on the event.

Ted informed the board that at the Spring 2005 NACD meeting in New Jersey it was requested that RI or CT host the 2007 regional NACD meeting. The issue will be brought up at the next RI District Association meeting.

The 2006 regional NACD meeting will be held on February 13th, 2006 in Portsmouth, NH.

The directors set a date to tour the farms selected as candidates for the District 'Conservation Farm of the Year', to be awarded at the annual meeting next month.

IV. Meeting adjourned

9:15 p.m.