

# **Meeting Minutes**

**December 8, 2005**

**ERICD Directors present: Edward Comerford, Walter Elwell, Richard Hart.**

**Associate Directors: Suzanne Hourihan.**

**ERICD staff: Tom Sandham, Justine Calcina.**

**NRCS: Peter Bonome.**

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

## **II. Minutes**

**Minutes for the October meeting accepted as written. November meeting was annual dinner.**

## **III. Reports**

### **a. Treasurer's**

**Treasurer's reports tabled until January, as several corrections need**

to be made.

#### **b. District Manager**

Tom attended the NRCS farm bill workshop at the Coastal Institute. RI appears to be well represented in Washington. Tom stressed the recognition of smaller farms, and new ways to attract young farmers.

Tom advised the Tiverton Open Space committee on the management potentials for a local 14 acre farm.

The NRCS state tech committee decided to meet at the Eastern District offices for a change. They also toured several NRCS projects in the area.

Bill Wilson the NACD President toured RI NRCS projects; Tom was invited to take part.

Tom is spending a lot of time working on the beef marketing project, which will tie in nicely with the Grazing Land Conservation Initiative. Land preservation will be a key goal for the program and is included in the mission statement. A series of workshop are underway, with attendance increasing for each.

#### **c. NRCS**

**Peter handed out the conservationist reports for November. Recent projects are concerned with cultural resource issues in Jamestown, a compost pad, fencing, and coastal buffer issues. Peter met with the Nature Conservancy and the owners of a large Tiverton farm. Kate the NRCS biologist is working on area WHIP projects. Several resource management plans have been completed with the help of Heather Foberg from URI. There have also been several recent EQIP applicants.**

**Peter is stepping down as District Conservationist; a new "Super DC" position has been created to replace him.**

### **III. Old Business**

**Legislative workshop- Tom has not yet heard from Krista Hardin from NACD.**

**2007 Regional Meeting- Tom will contact the RI Economic Development Corporation for ideas for the NACD meeting.**

**The director's approved a vote to hire an accountant to perform a bookkeeping audit/review of the district finances –Unanimous.**

#### **IV. New Business**

**Motion, second, passed 2 to 1 (Ted-for, Walter-for, Dick-against) to hire Project Manager Danielle Minto. After a review of the procedures and applicants it was agreed that Danielle was the choice of the Board.**

**A new voice mail phone system has been set up for the office. This will free up the line so that people can leave messages.**

**Justine's final week will end the 31st, as she will be attending graduate school. The director's thanked her for a job well done.**

**IV. Meeting adjourned                      9:15 p.m.**