

Meeting Minutes

for

January 13, 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, Jim Booth, Jane Escobar.

I. Minutes

Motion made to approve the October minutes with the following corrections: in the section Chair, replace 'December' with December 7th, and December 14th for 'this month'.- approved unanimously.

II. Reports

Chair:

Treasurer's:

The directors accepted the treasurer's reports for December 2004.

The adjusted balance ending for December 31 in the Bank of Newport checking account was \$10,128.85. The Smith Barney account balance ending was \$5,302.47.

District Manager:

Tom reported six new EQIP projects in the district.

Tom is collaborating with the Rural Development Council on a grant for a feasibility study for beef marketing and processing.

Tom is working with Liz Scott from DEM in attempt to address two farms in Warren with nutrient (manure) management problems. There has also been discussion with NRCS, DEM, and MA agencies to address nutrient management problems in MA.

Tom attended a buffers workshop sponsored by CRMS, and will be working with NRCS, DEM and the River Council on a proposal to participate in the outreach for the project. More information will follow after the January 20th meeting.

The directors discussed the need for lists of landowners who are not yet in the FFOS program. Dick would like to generate maps with this information.

Project Coordinator:

Justine described the projects she has been working on to the guests in attendance. Things have been slow over the holidays, however she is finalizing the open space & coastal access brochure for the Town of Warren.

NRCS:

Justin distributed the Conservation Reports for December 2004. He is working out his own system for presenting NRCS reports.

There was talk on possibly promoting the CSP program to RI farmers.

III. Old Business- none.

IV. New Business

Ted welcomed the guests and asked Tom to give a brief overview of the District's history and the process for becoming involved in the District. 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.