

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

2490 Main Road - Tiverton, RI 02878 - Phone (401) 830-5763

ERICD Board Meeting

July 13, 2010

7:15 PM

Chairman Walter Elwell called the meeting to order at 7:16.

Present were: Directors Walter Elwell, Emerson Wildes, Richard Hart, Suzanne Hourihan and Ron Mucci; Ramona LeBlanc, State Conservation Committee. Melissa Hayden, NRCS.

I. Minutes

The minutes of the June 8, 2010 meeting were declared accepted as written.

II. Reports

A. Treasurer's: A motion was made to approve as presented: Dick/Suzanne, unanimous.

B. Chair: Minor office expenditures approved and mail distributed.

C. Directors:

Suzanne Hourihan: EWP applications are in process. Suzanne completed 6 hours of work for the first stage of WHIP agreement and

has submitted an invoice to the SCC.

Dick Hart: Nothing to report

Ron Mucci: In addition to FRESH, Ron suggested another movie, DIRT, be considered for a public viewing. Will email date of Pardon Gray Day to Board.

Emerson Wildes: Emerson attended SCC meeting and reported the following:

Two appointments to the FFOS subcommittee have been approved by Governor and are awaiting Senate approval. A tax assessors training on FFOS will be scheduled for fall. Two ag techs have been selected to do farm conservation plans for FFOS. They will work as independent contractors. The reorganization continues to evolve and a formal agreement will be drafted when process is further along. Minutes of all CD meetings as well as the SCC meetings will be posted to the RIACD website. 8 people will be trained to be data collectors for energy audits, 2-4 from CD's and SCC. DEM is working to make State lands available for agricultural use and would look to work with the CD's to do so.

D. Telephone Calls: Warren Conservation Commission called; to be discussed under new business.

E. Office Use Log: Shows frequent use by NRCS and FSA during preceding month -- a total of 44 people.

F: NRCS: Summary report distributed which outlined upcoming obligation deadlines as well as year to date totals for funds allocated in ERICD. Two new soil conservationists and a landscape architect

have been hired.

III. Old Business

A. Letter to SCC: The letter that ERICD sent to Eric Offenbergs was discussed at SCC meeting. The SCC agrees that local District should play an active role in any events held within that District and should, in fact, act as hosts. Familiarity with District programs and personnel should be expected of any ag techs or staff from other CD's when working within a District. Also, contact information for local District and promotional literature should be presented when anyone works within a District. The local Board should be informed when work is being completed within a District. Although Board members are welcomed to accompany staff when work is being conducted in core programs, the work will be completed by staff under the direction of the SCC.

B. DIRT: Previously discussed.

C. EWP: Previously discussed.

D. WHIP Workshop: Held on June 10.

E. Annual Dinner Meeting: Liz Paul said she and Skip would be willing to coordinate as they did last year and Crowthers is available for use again. Allen Cove Wildlife has a variety of 1 hour programs available for a \$100 fee. More information will be presented at next meeting. A motion was made to check availability at Crowthers for November 2, 3 or 5: Suzanne/Dick, unanimous. Skip will also be consulted about those dates.

F. Field Day: Will keep under consideration for next year, but concern was expressed that no staff is available to do associated work.

G. RI Ag Council Listing: Text submitted for placement in Ag council flyer was distributed.

IV. New Business

A. Bills: No current bills.

B. Directors' Stipends: Distributed for 1/10-6/10 period.

C. Future of 8 Rod Farm: After fires have destroyed several buildings, there are many questions about future management of the property.

D. Warren Wildlife Habitat: the Warren Conservation Commission will be referred to Melissa Hayden at NRCS. She will, in turn, bring project to the attention of newly hired landscape architect.

V. Other

Jeanne Comerford has expressed an interest in part time administrative work. The financial implication of hiring someone was discussed. A motion was made to send Jeanne a letter stating that, while ERICD is not ready to hire at this time, she would be kept under consideration if ERICD decides to hire: Dick/Ron;

A motion was made to amend the motion to include an inquiry as to

**whether she would be interested in per diem work: Emerson/ Dick:
unanimous.**

Meeting time will be changed to 7:00 beginning in August.

**Sign on door will be changed to note that new phone number is toll
free.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.