

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

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

ERICD Board Meeting

August 10, 2010

7:00 PM

Chairman Walter Elwell called the meeting to order at 7:07.

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 July 13, 2010 meeting were declared accepted as written.

II. Reports

A. Treasurer's: Bank reconciliation report and a budget year to date report were presented and declared accepted as printed.

B. Chair: A meeting announcement was published in the Sakonnet Times. Sign on door was changed to acknowledge that the phone number listed is toll-free. Chair received correspondence from Dick Went (RIACD) regarding potential new projects and whether ERICD

would have t h e staff to participate. Walter responded that issue was on agenda and hiring staff would be discussed.

C. Directors:

Dick Hart: Dick made inquiries at URI Co-op Extension about possible speakers/programs for annual dinner meeting. Waiting for response. Tax assessors will receive updated FFOS Citizens Guides in September.

Ron Mucci: Nothing to report.

Suzanne: Has been researching activities for annual dinner meeting but has not found anything suitable.

Emerson Wildes: URI alumni newsletter contained articles about aquaculture and a new track in sustainable agriculture. Walter asked to see a copy.

D. Telephone Calls: Nothing to report.

E. Office Use Log: Shows frequent use by NRCS.

F: NRCS: Summary report distributed.

III. Old Business

A. Aquaculture: Nothing new to report.

B. DIRT/FRESH: One will be selected for a fall viewing.

C. EWP: Nothing new to report.

D. Annual Dinner Meeting: To be held November 3. Melissa will try to set up tours for farm award on September 7. A decision on entertainment and ticket price will be made a September meeting.

IV. New Business

A. Bills: Bills from Cox Communications, National Grid and Walter Elwell were approved for payment.

B. District Manager: Walter has been in contact with Jeanne Comerford who is interested in a part-time position. He will advise her of the Board's decision regarding hiring after the Board meeting. A motion was made to proceed to hire a part time person to work for ERICD: Emerson/Dick. Discussion was that there should be a job description developed before the hiring process is begun. Motion was amended to plan to hire a part time person to work for ERICD: Emerson/Suzanne. After discussion, motion was amended a second time to start the process to hire a part time person for ERICD: Ron/Dick. Second amendment failed(2 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention); first amendment failed (2 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention); original motion failed (2 yes, 3 no).

V. Other

A motion was made to ask Chris Modisette (RC & D) to act as a facilitator at sessions in which the ERICD Board will meet to evaluate current position, past direction and future goals: Ron/Suzanne. An amendment was proposed to also develop a job description immediately: Emerson/Suzanne. After discussion, proposed amendment and second were withdrawn as these are two separate

issues. No further discussion. Original motion passed.

A motion was made for the Board to develop a job description for a District employee: Emerson/Ron. A motion was made to amend to state that Emerson will write a job description for Board review: Ron/Suzanne, unanimous.

Walter will inform Jeanne Comerford of Board's decision regarding hiring part time person, as well as the fact that, in future, any such position will need to be advertised.

A motion was made that Walter write a letter for Board review to Ken Ayars expressing ERICD Board's interest in the future of 8 Rod Farm. The Board would like to be informed of future changes and to participate in some capacity.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57.

Next meeting date September 14, 7:00 pm.