

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

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

ERICD Board Meeting

January 11, 2010

7:00 PM

Chairman Walter Elwell called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Present were: Directors Walter Elwell, Emerson Wildes, Richard Hart and Ron Mucci; Ramona LeBlanc.

I. Minutes

Minutes of the December 14, 2010 meeting were declared accepted as printed.

II. Reports

A. Treasurer's: A motion was made to accept reports as presented: Dick Hart/ Emerson Wildes: unanimous.

B. Chair:

• NRCS workshops held at Little Compton Grange on December 16th and January 6th were well attended and resulted in several new EQIP applications.

• At the request of Dick Went (RIACD) Walter wrote a letter to Phou

Vongkhamdy (NRCS) requesting that the Rivers Assessment agreement be expanded to ERICD. Both the Sakonnet and Kickemuit were suggested as potential targets.

C. Directors:

- Ron Mucci: Ron is trying to contact Connie Lima (Tiverton Land Trust) to schedule a viewing of FRESH and/or DIRT.**
- Emerson Wildes: Steve Horowitz was unable to attend this meeting but asked be added to the email list.**
- Dick Hart: Tiverton Tax Assessor, Dave Robert, has had concerns about a property enrolled in FFOS and whether it was a working farm. At the suggestion of ERICD, he has been in contact with DEM. A site visit has been made by DEM and farm status has been confirmed. Mr. Roberts will accept that decision.**

D. Telephone Calls: No phone activity.

E. Office Use: No report on office use.

F: NRCS: Melissa emailed report.

G. SCC:

- Meeting rescheduled to January 20, 2011 at 9:30 due to upcoming snowstorm.**
- Geese Abatement: Three (3) workshops are scheduled for ERICD: 2 Public workshops on 1/31/11 and 2/2/11 at 7pm; and a municipal workshop to be held at Portsmouth Free Library on 1/25/11. The municipal meeting will have to be rescheduled due to a conflict with the RI League of Cities & Towns Convention. Date to be determined. A motion was made to make the ERICD office available for the public workshops: Ron Mucci/ Dick Hart: unanimous.**

III. Old Business

A. DIRT/FRESH: Previously discussed.

B. Part-time District Manager: A motion was made to present Jessica Blackledge with a written job proposal: Ron Mucci/ Emerson Wildes, unanimous. The job proposal will include a job description which will be reviewed and approved by the board.

C. NRCS Workshops: Previously discussed.

D. New Associate Director:

- Ron suggested that the Board attempt to find a Board Member from Bristol County.**
- David Brown submitted a letter of resignation as Associate Director.**
- A motion was made to accept his resignation and send a letter of thanks for his years of service to the District: Emerson/ Ron: unanimous.**

IV. New Business

A. Bills: Payment of Cox Communication and National Grid bills was authorized.

B. No Till Project:

- Ron has been discussing his interest in various conservation farming practices (including irrigation, conservation tillage, cover crops, etc.) with Melissa Hayden.**
- ERICD will submit a written proposal to NRCS for funding to develop and implement a survey to assess farm/landowner interest in these practices, identifying strongest points of interest to target with NRCS**

workshops.

V. Other

A motion was made to accept an MOU between RIACD and the Districts which addresses agreements signed by the Association but implemented by the Districts: Motion passed with one (1) abstention.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.