

**Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District**

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

**ERICD Board Meeting**

**March 8, 2011**

**7:00 PM**

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

**Present were: Directors Walter Elwell, Emerson Wildes, Ron Mucci and Richard Hart; Associate Director Steve Horowicz; Ramona LeBlanc, State Conservation Committee; Melissa Hayden, NRCS; Jessica Blackledge, ERICD Project Manager.**

**I. Minutes:**

**A motion was made to accept the February 8, 2011 meeting minutes as printed. Ron/ Emerson. Motion was not passed and minutes will be discussed under New Business at the April meeting.**

**II. Reports:**

**A. Treasurer's: A motion was made to accept the bank reconciliation report and budget year-to-date: Emerson/Ron, unanimous.**

**B. Project Manager: Written report was distributed.**

**• Office Management: A new phone with answering machine was purchased. Phone service is bundled with internet. Jessie requested reimbursement for overage charge on her cell phone as well as**

increased call volume on the office phone to avoid the use of her cell phone. Both will be discussed under New Business.

- **Computer:** Steve will add RAM to desktop. He will also address issues with the laptop and printers.
- **Jessie** requested that the Petty Cash Fund be replenished. To be discussed under New Business.
- **A Staples** reward account and revolving credit account also to be discussed under New Business.
- **Jessie** will research costs for development of ERICD website.
- **Jessie** circulated information for RI Coverts Forestry Project & RFP for state and sale.
- **Jessie** requested payment of registration fees for Land & Water Summit (\$55), Women in AG workshop (\$20) both of which the Board previously authorized her to attend. Her attendance at an Ag Council dinner and NELM will be discussed under New Business.

**C. Chair:** Walter met with Phou Vongkhamdy to discuss possible solutions to litigation between DEM and Arruda Dairy Farm. ERICD will work with NRCS to develop a plan that is acceptable to DEM. Walter has identified the location of 9 mating pair of geese.

**D. Directors:**

- **Emerson Wildes:** Emerson did not attend the February RIACD meeting. He attended 1 of the public geese workshops held at ERICD.
- **Steve Horowicz:** The Board thanked Steve for the work he has done to help Jessie get the office equipment functioning. He will evaluate the laptop to determine if it is worth fixing. A written report will be submitted.

- **Ron Mucci:** Has not received a commitment from Tiverton Land Trust regarding screening of DIRT/FRESH.

- **Dick Hart:** Attended municipal goose workshop as well as public workshop at the ERICD office.

**E Office Use:** Office is open two days a week and continues to be used by partners. A press release with new phone number and office hours will be sent to the media.

**G. NRCS:** EQIP/WHIP/AMA ranking to be completed by March 15th; second round application deadline is April 1st. Melissa distributed an updated agenda for the Women in Ag workshop.

**H. SCC:** Site visits for Farm Conservation Plans will begin to be scheduled by Ag Techs.

### **III. Old Business**

**A. DIRT/FRESH:** Previously discussed

**B. NRCS Workshop:**

- Two public workshops and one municipal workshop were held in Eastern District. Due to minimal response to public workshops, the outreach to ag producers for EQIP practices may be expanded statewide.

- The conservation survey got good response.

- One volunteer training session was held and another is scheduled for March 12th.

**C. High Tunnels:** Event was held on February 22nd and was well attended.

**D. Bathroom:** Emerson is trying to determine who manages the

**building.**

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

**A. A motion was made to reimburse Jessie \$5.00 for the overage on her cell phone Dick/ Emerson; unanimous.**

**B. A motion was made to replenish the petty cash account with \$200: Dick/ Emerson, unanimous.**

**C. Bills: Bills for Cox Communication (\$65.54) and liability insurance (\$25) have been received. A motion was made to pay these bills as well as registration fees for Land & Water Summit and Women in Ag workshop; Emerson/ Ron, unanimous.**

**D. A motion was made to authorize Jessie to attend the Ag Council meeting and to pay for her meal (\$12.00); Emerson/ Dick: unanimous.**

**E. A motion was made to open a Staples Rewards account; Dick/ Emerson: unanimous.**

**F. A motion was made to create Facebook account for ERICD: Ron/ Emerson, unanimous.**

**G. Directors & Projects: If ERICD Board votes to implement a program within the District, no Board Member has the right to publicly express lack of confidence in that program.**

**H. Director's Terms: Each Director will research his/her date of appointment or election before the April meeting.**

**I. A motion was made by Ron to accept the minutes of the February meeting; the was no second. Motion died.**

**J. Steve and Ramona will research savings account with attached debit card at Bank of Newport.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.**