

**Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District**

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

**April 12, 2011**

**7:00 PM**

**Chairman Walter Elwell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.**

**Present were: Directors Walter Elwell, Emerson Wildes, Suzanne Hourihan 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 March 8, 2011 meeting minutes: Emerson/Suzanne: motion approved with one abstention.**

**II. Reports:**

**A. Treasurer's: Reconciliation summary and budget reports were distributed. A request was made for a year-end comparison to 6/30/10 to be prepared.**

**A motion was made to accept the report as presented: Emerson/Dick: unanimous.**

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

**1. Office Status: Laptop is currently working well but desktop may need to be replaced in future to support software such as ArcView.**

**Printers continue to be unreliable.**

**2. Program Development: Jessie will investigate grant funding to develop a website.**

**Jessie has found recent meetings and workshops to be opportunities for networking.**

**As a part of new SCC/NRCS agreement Jessie will be working at NRCS office two days a week.**

**C. Chair: Walter referred a forestry client to Jessie.**

**D. Directors:**

**Dick Hart: Dick met with NRCS (M. Hayden, P. Vongkhamdy, K. Farmer) to view erosion problem on two local farms.**

**Emerson Wildes: Attended State Committee meeting.**

**Steve Horowicz: Steve indicated that money would be better spent on a new printer and desktop than in repairs/updates. Bank Newport offers a free debit card to business accounts.**

**Suzanne Hourihan: Nothing to report.**

**E. Office Use: Office is open two days a week and continues to be used by partners.**

**F. NRCS: District Conservationist's report distributed.**

**Under new SCC/NRCS agreements Ag Techs will provide follow-ups to existing and potential clients.**

**Round 1 funds have been obligated and Round 2 applications are being processed.**

**G. SCC: A motion was made to approve the revised MOU between the SCC and each district: Emerson/Suzanne: unanimous.**

### **III. Old Business:**

**A. DIRT/FRESH: Ron is working with Tiverton Land Trust to schedule a viewing next winter.**

**B. Bathroom: Emerson will check with landlord regarding maintenance issue.**

**C. Geese Abatement: Due to low number of potential EQIP applications in ERICD, the outreach will be extended statewide.**

**D. Credit Card: A motion was made to open a separate account with an attached debit card at Bank Newport: Emerson/Dick: unanimous.**

### **IV. New Business**

**A. Pay Bills: Board authorized payment of project managers' expenses. A motion was made to contribute \$50 to the RI Envirothon:**

**Emerson/Suzanne: unanimous.**

**A motion was made to upgrade the Yahoo email account to a business account: Emerson/Suzanne: unanimous.**

**A motion was made to pay \$30 membership dues to RI Agricultural Council: Emerson/Suzanne: unanimous.**

**B. Director's Terms: Nomination papers will be sent to each Director for completion for the May meeting.**

**C. February meeting minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes as printed: Emerson/Suzanne: unanimous.**

**D. Agriculture: A motion was made to investigate the feasibility and environmental impact of an oyster farm at Nanequaket Pond: Emerson/Suzanne: unanimous.**

## **V. Other**

**Before next Board meeting, ERICD Board will review other websites for content and style. At that meeting, Board will develop a strategy for ERICD website.**

**Jessie was authorized to attend next Ag Council Meeting.**

**A motion was made to submit a grant proposal to the RI Ag Council: Suzanne/Emerson: unanimous.**

**Next Meeting: 5/10**

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:09.**