

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

2490 Main Road - Tiverton, RI 02878 - Phone (401) 816-5667

May 10, 2011

7:00 PM

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

Present were: Directors Walter Elwell, Emerson Wildes, Ron Mucci and Richard Hart; Associate Director Steve Horowicz; Jessica Blackledge, ERICD Project Manager.

I. Minutes:

A motion was made to accept the April 12, 2011 meeting minutes with minor corrections: Dick/ Emerson: unanimous.

II. Reports:

A. Treasurer's: Reconciliation summary and budget reports were distributed.

- Jessica reported, as requested by Ramona, that ERICD will receive \$3400 for the Geese project for the first quarter and she estimates another \$3000 for the second quarter.

- Discussion was had about ERICD's obligations for said funding. Jessie stated she would pass the questions along to Ramona.

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

B. Project Manager: Written report was distributed.

1. Office Status: Petty cash account has been set up at Bank Newport with associated debit card. Website startup costs range from \$600 to \$800 for a good one or two page website.

2. Program Development:

- Jessie attended the RI Assoc. of Conservation Commissions in April.

- Jessie has done some research into Nanaquaket and it does not seem to be listed as impaired by either EPA or RI DEM.

- Jessie submitted ERICD membership and funding request to the RI Ag Council. Request for funding was for \$750 to support 4H show participants and \$750 to support development of an ERICD website.

C. Chair: Walter reported on meeting Jessie at Bank Newport to set up Petty Cash checking account.

D. Directors:

Dick Hart: Dick continues to participate in hearings on proposed oyster farm in Nanaquaket Pond.

Emerson Wildes: Attended RIACD meeting, cleaned bathrooms, contacted owner regarding rent and bathrooms.

Steve Horowicz: Nothing to report.

Ron Mucci: Still working on DIRT showing. Will contact South

Kingston Land Trust regarding similar events they have held.

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

- Paul Dolan would like to use office for an event. Request letter to come.

F. NRCS: District Conservationist's report distributed.

G. SCC:

- Request from Board that Jessie contact Liz (NRICD) and offer her assistance with any advertisement and PR for the upcoming High Tunnel & Forestry workshops under the new SCC outreach agreement with NRCS.

- This month's SCC meeting has been postponed.

H. RIACD:

- Director's Training: Plan is to get first training module on RIACD website (for new Directors).

- Publicity for districts and what we do to Senators and Reps can be done through Dick Went.

III. Old Business:

A. DIRT/FRESH: Discussed earlier under Ron's Director's Report.

B. Bathroom: Emerson has talked with landlord. More details to come.

C. Geese Abatement:

- Have held 7 field outings, located 9 nests for a total of 32 eggs.**
- Have oiled 27 of the 32 eggs located.**
- Have 15 active and 5 dedicated volunteers.**
- Articles on project on page A5 of Easter Sunday Projo and in May 5th edition of Newport Daily News. Also, online article and video on project at www.projo.com**

D. Credit Card: Petty Cash account set up with Bank Newport with debit card.

E. Aquaculture/Nanaquaket Pond: Next hearing will be held on May 19th. Dick will attend.

IV. New Business

A. Pay Bills:

- Motion was made to authorize payment of project managers' expenses, Emerson/ Ron: unanimous.**
- Motion was made to authorize payment of National Grid bill, Emerson/ Ron: unanimous.**

B. Board Elections/ Appointments: Walter and Dick had their nomination papers, Emerson did not.

C. 3 Month Review – J. Blackledge: Will be discussed in closed session after regular Board Meeting.

D. Ag Council: A motion was made to pay for two dinners at the next Ag Council meeting on May 19th; Ron/ Emerson: unanimous.

E. Website: Discussion regarding need for a website. A motion was made for Jessie to determine why there isn't only one website for all three Districts. Requested Jessica contact SCC or RIACD (whichever is the appropriate org) to determine why. Ron/ Dick: unanimous.

F. State Technical Team: Jessica presented the request from Eric Boettger regarding ranking the State's resource concerns. Board will participate. Requests that Jessica provide ranking packet to them via email.

G. Annual Dinner: Walter requested that the Board start thinking about/ planning for the Annual Dinner

V. Other

Jessie was authorized to attend the SCC meeting (when rescheduled), RI Ag Council dinner on May 19th, NRICD Open House on May 25th.

Jessie was also authorized to attend and present on conservation districts at the NRCS High Tunnel & Forestry workshop at Little Compton Grange on May 31st.

Next Meeting: 6/14

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15.