

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

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

ERICD Board Meeting

September 13, 2011

7:00 PM

Chairman Walter Elwell called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

I. Minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes of the 8/9/11 board meeting: Dick Hart/Ron Mucci; unanimous.

II. Reports:

A. Treasurer's: A motion was made to accept the reports: Ron Mucci/Suzanne Hourihan; unanimous.

B. Project Manager: written report distributed.

- Petty cash account needs replenishing.**
- Newly purchased office equipment has improved efficiency.**

- **NRCS Geese Abatement ends 9/30/11 and Jessie is working on deliverables. As an aside, she is researching town ordinances and state law regarding signage.**
- **Jessie plans to deliver updated FFOS Citizen's Guide to assessors in ERICD within the next two weeks.**
- **She continues to provide technical assistance to landowners.**
- **Website domain name has been reserved.**
- **Details of possible grant opportunities will be distributed electronically to Board by 9/23 for comment.**

C. Chair: Walter has contact information for the attorney that handled the estate of Irene Helger.

D. Directors:

- **Suzanne Hourihan: Nothing to report.**
- **Ron Mucci: Nothing to report.**
- **Emerson Wildes: Spoke to land manager at Pardon Grey. He would like to see a single farmer farm entire property rather than have multiple leases.**
- **Dick Hart: Portsmouth has approved an exemption for farmers.**

E. Office: Remains the same but Jessie anticipates spending more time in office to work on new NRCS agreements.

F. NRCS: Conservationist report and updates distributed. Reporting for fiscal year end has been completed.

G. SCC:

- **There will be a meeting on 9/22 at Johnston office at 8:30 am.**
- **New NRCS contracts will have a 10% indirect rather than 20%.**

H. RIACD: There has not been a meeting since May.

III. Old Business:

A. Nanequaket Pond: Tiverton Town Council questioned need for a subcommittee after receiving reports from representatives of residents around the pond.

B. Annual Dinner:

- **A motion was made to hold Annual Dinner at Crowther's Restaurant: Emerson/Ron; unanimous.**
- **A motion was made to set ticket prices at \$17.00 per person: Suzanne/Emerson; 2 in favor, 2 opposed. Chair declared ticket pricing as proposed (\$17.00).**
- **A motion was made to hold event on 11/9/11: Suzanne/Ron; unanimous.**
- **A motion was made to ask Kathleen Brown (South Side Community Land Trust) to be guest speaker to discuss new National Food Policy.**
- **A motion was made to select up to four farms from list supplied by Melissa for farm tours and to select winner at October meeting:**

Ron/Dick; 3 in favor, 1 opposed: motion carried.

C. Equipment Bank: RIACD will pay ERICD \$1700 in indirect fee for ERICD to hire person to conduct feasibility study as part of Beginning Farmer/Rancher grant.

D. Budget: Budget cannot be finalized until SCC adopts its budget.

IV. New Business:

A. Bills: A motion was made to issue payment for Jessie's expenses, Cox bill and Farm Bureau dues: Emerson/Ron; unanimous.

B. Nomination pending for Emerson, Suzanne and Ron.

C. City of Newport: A motion was made to authorize Jessie to contact City of Newport and offer education and outreach assistance for a rain barrel distribution mandated by lawsuit: Ron/Suzanne; unanimous.

V. Other: A motion was made to authorize Jessie to attend Pardon Gray Day as representative of ERICD.

The Board welcomed Andrew Moreley and Laura Haverlan as guests.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.