

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

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

ERICD Board Meeting

October 11, 2011

7:00 PM

Chairman Walter Elwell called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

Present were: Directors, Walter Elwell, Ron Mucci, Emerson Wildes, Richard Hart, Suzanne Hourihan; Associate Directors, Norma Elwell, Steve Horowitz, ERICD; 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 9/13/11 board meeting: Dick Hart/Ron Mucci; unanimous.

II. Reports:

A. Treasurer's:

- Walter reported that he transferred \$4,000 from Sovereign savings account to the checking account.**
- A motion was made to approve the financial statements dated 9/30/11: Emerson Wildes/Ron Mucci; motion carried with three yea's**

and one abstention.

B. Project Manager: written report distributed.

• Program Development:

a. 2011 NRCS Geese Agreement: Jessie will use presentation she made to Edgewood Waterfront Preservation Association as template for future presentations to municipalities and community organizations.

b. City of Newport: Although no help is needed at present with education and outreach related to waste water lawsuit, representatives expressed interest in District and what services it offers.

c. New NRCS Agreements:

- Geese: Jessie is working to develop timeline for field work and outreach for new season. Approximately 20% of time may be allotted to municipal outreach.

- Outreach: New agreement seeks to establish the Conservation Districts at point source for conservation information. Districts are cooperatively developing 2012 timeline for workshops, etc. and each District will develop an individual outreach strategy.

- Rivers: A meeting will be scheduled during the week of 10/24 to clarify program parameters.

- Ag Inventory will include three towns in ERICD: Warren, Bristol and Middletown.

d. Other:

- Jessie has written a letter to tax assessors with instructions for downloading FFOS applications and will be delivering Citizen's Guides on 10/14.
- Website preview is available and comments are requested by 10/28.
- Jessie will distribute a potential grant list by the end of October.
- An Annual Report will be available at Annual Dinner.

C. Chair: Restaurant and speaker for Annual Dinner confirmed. Press releases sent to five newspapers for same.

D. Directors:

- Ron Mucci: Nothing to report.
- Emerson Wildes: Attended State Conservation Committee meeting.
- Suzanne Hourihan: Nothing to report.
- Dick Hart: Attended meeting of Tiverton Harbor Management Commission and a seminar conducted by Westport Watershed Alliance.

E. Office: Remains the same.

F. NRCS: District Conservationist report distributed.

- Highly erodible land management plans are being updated.
- Soil conservations are now certified planners.
- A system of regionalized practice costs is being implemented.
- New applications being processed.

G. SCC:

- **Emerson recommended that Jessie attend future meetings.**
- **Rupert Friday discussed need for farm plans for agricultural lands for Land Trust properties. SCC will explore having FFOS ag techs work with Rupert to see if that type of plan would benefit Land Trusts.**
- **Monthly contribution to overhead cost has been revised. NRICD will pay 50% of required amount with ERICD and SRICD each paying 25% (\$420.00/month).**
- **SCC would like any written communication with non-compliant FFOS enrollees to come from DEM and not the Districts.**
- **Eric Scherer will be working on strategic plan with SRICD Board and has offered to do the same with other Districts.**

III. Old Business:

A. Aquaculture/Nanequaket Pond: Previously discussed.

B. Budget: Revised budget distributed.

- **Reduced overhead contribution to SCC and additional income from NRCS agreements result in a balanced budget.**
- **A motion was made that the money taken from the Sovereign savings account would be transferred back when the money was received from the State: Dick/Suzanne; unanimous.**

IV. New Business:

A. Bills/Expenditures: A motion was made to pay current bills: Emerson/Suzanne; unanimous.

B. Nomination Papers: Pending for Emerson and Suzanne.

C. 2011 Award: A motion was made to present awards to Treaty Rock Farm and Poppasquash Oyster Company: Emerson/Suzanne; motion carries.

D. Plaques: A motion was made to order same style plaque as last year: Suzanne/Emerson; unanimous.

E. Financial Dinner Plans: Walter will speak about both winners.

V. Other:

- A motion was made to present Bill McCusker with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work on egg oiling: Emerson/Suzanne; unanimous.

- There is an Ag Council meeting on 10/20 at the Richmond Grange. A motion was made to purchase tickets for Jessie to attend: Emerson/Suzanne; unanimous.

- Dick requested that Sheila Costa of the Westport River Water Alliance be added to mailing list. Her contact information is

wep@wrwa.com (phone: 508-636-3016).

Next Meeting: November 8.