

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

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

ERICD Board Meeting

February 14, 2012

7:00 PM

Executive Session

- **A motion was made to consider a change of Jessica Blackledge's title from Project Manager to District Manager: Ron/Emerson: passed with 1 abstention.**
- **A motion was made to change Jessica's title to District Manager; the motion was amended to include that the current job description would remain the same for 6 months: Ron/Emerson: unanimous.**

Chairman Walter Elwell called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.

Present were: Directors Walter Elwell, Ron Mucci, Emerson Wildes and Richard Hart; Associate Director, Norma Elwell; Jessica Blackledge, Becca Buckler, ERICD; Ramona LeBlanc, State Conservation Committee; Melissa Hayden, NRCS; Tom Sandham.

I. Minutes: Minutes of the January 10, 2012 meeting were declared accepted as presented.

II. Reports:

A. Financial: Reports were declared approved as presented.

B. Project Development: Jessie included updates in her written report.

1. Geese:

4 workshops are scheduled in next 10 days. One is for municipal and non-profit organization and will focus on egg oiling training. The other 3 workshops (1 per district) will be aimed at agricultural producers and emphasize NRCS practices.

2. Outreach:

Follow-up from first round of workshops continues.

Second round of workshops is scheduled. ERICD's will be held at Portsmouth Free Public Library on 2/28 at 5:30.

3. Waterbodies:

Becca is finalizing prioritized list of waterbodies to be submitted to NRCS by 2/29/12. Priorities include public water supply, scenic/recreational value, and wildlife with emphasis on agricultural point and non-point sources.

4. Equipment Bank:

115 responses to online survey have been received. Becca has visited over 20 farms. Research is showing that less time sensitive equipment works best for sharing. She plans to visit a mobile poultry processing unit in South Eastern Massachusetts. Also, she is exploring discount financing from equipment dealers.

C. NRCS Report: Written DC report distributed.

- WHIP funding will be species specific and, in RI, only for NE Cottontail.
- First round of EQIP funding has been obligated.
- ERICD had 37 EQIP applications.
- Local office is waiting to see impact of budget cuts.

III. Old Business:

Walter Elwell, Emerson Wildes and Richard Hart were appointed Directors at SCC's 1/18/12 meeting.

Elections for other two positions will be held at April Board meeting. Open positions and election to be advertised.

IV. New Business:

A. Report from Tom Sandham:

- Board was given a written report and update on completion of an accepted

conservation plan for Antone and Georgiana Moniz.

- Executive Session declared at 8:05. A motion was made to offer help

or to seek sources of help for Ferolbink Farm to address resource concerns: Emerson/Ron; 2 ayes, 1 nay, 1 abstention. Chair declared motion passed.

B. Office Keys: Board approved giving Becca a set of office keys.

C. Bills: A motion was made to pay current bills: Ron/Emerson: unanimous.

D. Other:

Board voted in executive session at 7:00 to change Jessica's title to District Manager with same job description. An evaluation will be conducted in 6 months.

V. Reports:

A. District Manager:

- A motion was made to transfer funds to petty cash account: Ron/Emerson: unanimous.
- Town funding letters were sent in January.
- Jessie will be attending meeting with DEM Director Coit on 2/15, Land and Water Summit, and Women in Ag workshops.

B. Chair: Walter posted signs in area for Fish & Wildlife which prohibit use of felt waders in fresh water.

C. Directors:

- **Dick Hart has been attending a series of lectures on agriculture at RWU.**
- **Ron Mucci attended a high tunnel workshop and a three day program on Soil and Nutrition; he will forward a list of upcoming workshops.**
- **Emerson Wildes attended SCC meeting.**

D. SCC:

- **Meeting was held on 1/18/12.**
- **Ag Partnership has earmarked \$4000 for review of formula to determine farm values.**
- **Consolidation policy was revised to allow Districts to sign agreements in core programs that are confined to their District. Statewide programs will continue to go through SCC.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.