

**Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District**

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

**ERICD Board Meeting**

**March 13, 2012**

**7:00 PM**

**Present were: Directors, Walter Elwell, Ron Mucci, Emerson Wildes; Jessica Blackledge, Becca Buckler, Steve Horowitz, ERICD; Ramona LeBlanc, State Conservation Committee; Melissa Hayden.**

**Executive Session called to order at 7:00 --**

- A motion was made to accept NRCS's proposal to establish a field office at ERICD: Emerson/Ron; unanimous.**
- A motion was made to create a benefit package for ERICD that includes paid holidays for administrative as well as program hours, and full benefits (holidays, vacation, sick leave and 5% contribution to either health insurance or retirement) for billable program hours.**

**Chair Walter Elwell called the general meeting to order at 7:16 --**

**I. Minutes: Minutes of the February 14, 2012 meeting were declared accepted as printed.**

## **II. Reports:**

**A. Financial: Reports were declared approved as printed.**

### **B. Projects:**

#### **1. Geese:**

- **Four workshops have been held, three aimed at agriculture producers and one for municipal/non-profits, etc.**

#### **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.**

#### **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 @ 9:15.**