

**Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District**

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

**ERICD Board Meeting**

**April 10, 2012**

**7:00 PM**

**Chairman Walter Elwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.**

**Present were: Directors, Walter Elwell, Emerson Wildes, Richard Hart, Suzanne Hourihan; Jessica Blackledge, ERICD; Ramona LeBlanc, Jill Osgood, State Conservation Committee; Melissa Hayden, NRCS; Jean Lynch, RI Association of Conservation Districts.**

**I. Minutes: Minutes of the March 13, 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:**

- **Geese have begun laying eggs with some incubating. DEM allowed the use of their properties on Green Hill Pond. 7 nests were located, 42 eggs oiled and 8 eggs not oiled. 1 new nest was located on private property; owners' permission is needed for return visit. Bill McCusker located a nest on Ram Island and will coordinate future visits.**
- **Eastern fieldwork and final field training plans are almost complete. A field training at Roger Williams Park is scheduled for April 19th; flyers and e-blast to follow.**
- **Newport Water biologist attended Green Hill inspection. He will coordinate water craft for their properties.**
- **Jessie's presentation at the RI Natural History Survey's Annual Conference held on March 29th was well received. New contacts for both the Eastern District and the Geese Project were made.**

## **2. Outreach:**

- **District Manager continues to attend project planning meetings and trainings.**
- **All CAPs are complete. Contract reviews will begin in the next few weeks as directed by NRCS.**
- **The third round NRCS Workshop is scheduled for July 18th at Watson Farm in Jamestown at 5:30 pm. Don Minto will lead a farm tour and talk about NRCS practices.**

## **3. Waterbodies:**

- The agreement will not prioritize point and non-point source sites as previously noted. It will, instead, address hydraulic impairments to the Warren River, Silver Creek, Kickemuit River, and Child Street Dam.

#### **4. Equipment Bank:**

- Continues to proceed as reported at last meeting.

#### **C. NRCS Report: Written DC report distributed.**

- First round EQIP produced 28 contracts, 500 acres and \$398,000.
- Second round EQIP produced 25 applications and \$311,000.
- Statewide EQIP rounds one & two have obligated \$2.36 million of the \$2.74 million initially allocated.
- Additional funding from the national office for Round three may be requested.
- Leonard Jordan , Regional Conservationist, visited last week. He attended a district tour and met with local landowners in all three districts. Specific issues were identified as needing to be addressed. The meeting was intended to showcase the need for field offices and the relationship between the districts and NRCS. Leonard Jordan will follow-up in the coming months.

#### **III. Old Business:**

**A. An election was held for District Directors. Suzanne Hourihan and Ron Mucci were re-elected. Suzanne accepted. Ron Mucci's election is pending per his acceptance. The vote must go to the RI State Conservation Committee for final acceptance.**

**B. The RI State House Finance Committee hearing is scheduled for April 11th at 1:00 pm in Room 35 of the State House to discuss RI's Legislative Grants. Eric Offenbergl will attend to speak on behalf of all the Districts. Gina DeMarco and Dick Went are also planning on attending.**

#### **IV. New Business:**

**A. Walter Elwell requested that Jessie and any other board members who are able to attend the SCC/Districts Meeting on April 24th to please attend the meeting. Among topics to be discussed are health insurance, and the reorganization and co-op agreements between the CD's and RI State Conservation Committee.**

#### **B. Bills:**

- A motion was made to pay current bills: Ron/Suzanne; unanimous.**
- A letter of thanks from Envirothon, which was received for ERICD's contribution, also extended an invitation to attend the 2012 Envirothon to be held at Goddard Park.**

**C. An invitation to RI Raised Livestock Association Annual Banquet was received.**

**V. Reports:**

**A. Project Manager:**

- **The petty cash account balance is \$38.50. A motion was made to replenish the petty cash account to \$200.00: Emerson/Suzanne; unanimous.**

**B. Chair:**

- **Walter Elwell updated the board on the progress at 8 Rod Management Area.**
- **The Board thanked Emerson for meeting with Leonard Jordan, the National Representative of NRCS, and for attending the associated Clam Bake. The request for a NRCS satellite office was approved; Melissa Hayden will utilize the office as needed.**
- **The Little Compton Grange will host a kids-only fishing derby at Ponderosa Pond on April 14th & 15th. The State of RI has begun stocking rivers and ponds in anticipation of opening day of fishing season.**

**C. Directors:**

- **Dick Hart continues to attend a series of lectures on agriculture at**

**RWU.**

- **Emerson Wildes attended RI State Conservation Committee and Ag Council meetings.**
- **Suzanne Hourihan reported that NRCS does not have a sufficient engineering staff to meet the deadlines of all the approved projects. They have allowed the use of outside engineers.**

**D. SCC:**

- **Emerson reported that the Southern District issued a paper raising questions that they had about CD's agreements with the RI State Conservation Committee. A meeting is set for further discussion.**
- **The fee for Farm Conservation Plans may not adequately compensate the planners.**

**E. RIACD: Jean Lynch volunteered her time to help promote awareness of Conservation Districts to cities and towns.**

**Meeting adjourned @ 8:30.**