

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

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

ERICD Board Meeting

July 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, Suzzane Hourihan; District Manager: Jessica Blackledge, ERICD; RISCC: Jill Osgood; NRCS: Melissa Hayden.

I. Minutes: Minutes of the June 12, 2012 meeting were declared accepted by Walter with 3 corrections:

1. Section VI, Part F – Other, #1: The sentence “Jessie will contact the RI Fish & Wildlife Division to research the possibility of posting signs at the gut.” is deleted.

2. Section VI, Part F – Other, #2: “...TV monitor...” is corrected to “...computer monitor...”

3. Section VII, Part A: “Project Manager” is corrected to “District Manager” and the report is corrected to “Jessica submitted a written report.” Under the same Section and Part, the sentence “Walter attended a Little Compton Town Meeting and made a motion requesting \$1,000 in municipal donations to the Eastern District. The motion was not passed.” is moved to Section VII, Part B, Chair.

II. Financial: Reports were declared approved as presented. Walter asked that the funds borrowed from the Sovereign Savings account be reimbursed.

III. Project Update: Jessica submitted a written report.

A. Geese: Jessica has decreased her working hours on the Geese Project due to limited funding remaining per the grant. She attended the RWP Pond Restoration Steering Committee Meeting and gave an account of specific geese nesting and training workshops held. She is scheduled to meet with DEM representative, Sue Kiernan, on 7/11/12 about potential funding/expansion of the Geese Project. Jessica is also active in creating marketing materials to promote the Geese Project as a Fee-for Service option for the districts.

B. NRCS Outreach 2012: Jessica continues to attend project planning meetings, training, publicizing events and workshops. She will attend the 3rd Round NRCS workshop at Watson Farm scheduled for 7/18/12 at 5:30 pm, and the Biosecurity Training on 7/19/12.

C. Water Bodies: Jessica attended the DEM Impaired Waters Meeting on 6/13/12. She will evaluate and review Watershed Based Plans with DEM in hopes of retaining work as the facilitating entity. Becca was not present and submitted a written report. She is near completion of the tributary surveys for the Warren, Kickemuit, and Palmer Rivers. The preliminary reports will be reviewed by NRCS for identification of impairments that need

further study.

D. Equipment Bank: Becca was not present and submitted a written report. All surveys/interviews are complete; information gathered will be analyzed to identify trends and statistics. She is collaborating with Tom Sproul (URI Ag Economist) and Lynda Bruschetti (Coop. Development Institute). A detailed final report will follow upon completion out-lining the needs and recommendations of the end-users for various farm equipment sharing.

IV. NRCS Report: Melissa submitted a written report. She continues to work on current projects, with a particular focus on contract maintenance and reviews. Currently 6 contracts have been reviewed and 19 remain. She is working on Access Road design standards for Paris St. Pierre and Josie Richmond. A Forestry CAP template for property under 10 acres was completed by Chris Modisette and is being implemented on property in Middletown. Some recent projects include wire fence installation for livestock and wetlands separation, invasive plant herbicide treatment in preparation for warm season grass seeding, mechanical control of invasive plants and cool season grass plantings, and a signed Forestry contract for property in Tiverton.

V. Old Business:

A. Satellite NRCS Office: The Field Office of the Future Committee meeting is scheduled for 7/20/12 at 9:30 am – 12:00 noon at the NRCS Conference Room. Suzzane Hourihan plans to attend, depending on

her schedule. One board member from each district is required to be present. The upcoming meetings schedule will be discussed. Signs for the Eastern District satellite office have been sent to the printer and should be available for review shortly, and plans for the office Grand Opening are on-going.

B. Sakonnet Vineyards: Jessica researched and confirmed that the district is entitled to legal counsel per Title 2, Chapter 4, Section 6. She informed Ramona of the situation/ contract concerning Sakonnet Vineyards, Newport Water and Eastern District. Ramona and Eric Offenbergs discussed the matter and returned with the opinion that the contract is not transferrable to a new owner of Sakonnet Vineyards because the contract is expired. Eric recommended that any work performed by the district should be documented and filed, and any additional concerns should be forwarded, in writing, to him. Jessica created a report of all work performed by her as well as a list of concerns and has placed them in the file. She requested that any work/inspections, etc. performed by others also be logged and placed in the file.

C. Equipment Disposal: Tom Sandham confirmed that the old office equipment is owned by the Eastern District and offered to remove the printer. Jessie volunteered to contact Steve for disposal/recycling ideas. A motion was made to dispose of the excess equipment that cannot be given away or recycled. Emerson/Suzzane; unanimous.

VI. New Business:

A. Bills: A motion was made to pay current bills that include

employee monthly fringe & expenses of \$314.63, D&O insurance of \$1,012.00, utilities of \$465.24 and advertising of \$3.00. Emerson/Suzzane; unanimous.

B. Other: Jessica informed the board about the Green Market Festival on 8/12/12 at The Farmers Daughter in South Kingstown.

VII. Reports:

A. District Manager: Petty Cash expense of \$100.97 is for office supplies. A motion was made to replenish the Petty Cash account to \$200.00. Suzzane/Emerson; unanimous.

Jessica will be out-of-town from 8/5 – 8/12/12.

B. Chair: Walter reported that DEM is tracking turkey sightings. Tracking forms can be found at the DEM website. Walter sighted about 40 hens and poults near the church, south of the Commons, in Little Compton. There are numerous ducks and ducklings in Newport Pond, and at Little Comp Ponderosa all the geese have left.

C. Directors:

1. Suzzane talked to the organic farmers about NRCS programs and practices in an effort to get them to participate.

2. Emerson repaired the broken office fan.

3. Walter reported that the Grange in Little Compton planted a Victory Garden. The Tiverton Historical Society hired a new Director/President and has planted a vegetable garden and an herb garden. A fundraising Clam Boil is scheduled for 7/27/12.

D. RI State Conservation Committee:

1. Ramona was not present and she submitted a written report. Work on a draft for the resource library continues. A copy will be sent to the district for edits and changes prior to the State Conservation Committee meeting. The purpose of the document is to help market the districts to cities, towns, state/federal partners and, possibly, to private landowners.

2. Ramona has contacted NRCS about renewing the Engineering and Outreach agreements. The Eastern District will need to vote at the August or September Board Meeting whether or not it will participate in the agreements. More details will follow.

3. The next RISCC meeting is scheduled for 7/24/12 at 9:15 am at NRCS.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:10 pm.