

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

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

ERICD Board Meeting

August 14, 2012

7:00 PM

Chairman Walter Elwell called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Present were: Directors: Walter Elwell, Emerson Wildes, Suzanne Hourihan, Ron Mucci; District Manager ERICD: Jessica Blackledge; RISCC: Jill Osgood; Norma Elwell.

Note: Director Dick Hart was present until receiving news that Eric Offenbergs would not be present.

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

II. Financial Report: Reports were declared accepted as presented.

III. New Business:

A. Eric Offenbergs: Not present. Handouts were distributed to the Board to review and discuss at next month's meeting.

B. MOU/Reorganization Policy: Handouts were distributed to the

Board to review and discuss at next month's meeting.

C. Fee for Service: The next meeting is scheduled for August 23rd. Item selection, Statement of Work, and a Marketing Plan will be discussed. It is strongly recommended that a representative from the Eastern District attend the meeting.

D. District Book/Director's Handbook: A copy of Northern District's Director's Handbook was presented to the Board to review. The Handbook will be updated, revised, and copies distributed to all districts as an aid for District Director training.

E. DEM Legislative Grant Agreement: Jessica is working with Ramona to fill out the necessary forms for DEM to release funds.

F. Bills: A motion was made to pay current bills that include employee monthly fringe & expenses of \$318.44, telephone expense of \$90.24, advertising expense of \$254.90 and Shared Overhead expense of \$375.00. Emerson/Ron; unanimous. A net salary payment of \$500.90 was held by Walter for clarification from the State Conservation Committee Administrator. Payment for NACD dues in the amount of up to \$775.00 was tabled until next month.

G. Other: No other New Business.

IV. NRCS Report: Melissa Hayden was not present and submitted a written report.

The remaining EQIP and AMA Round 3 contracts have been signed for Bristol and Newport which will complete the 2012 fiscal year obligations. NRCS continues to work on contract reviews and maintenance. During the week of August 6th, an Oversight & Evaluation Review is scheduled and the Field Staff will attend the

Food Security Act Wetlands training.

IV. Old Business

A. Satellite NRCS Office:

1. Jessica presented 5 signage options for the NRCS Satellite Office. A motion was made by Suzanne to select option #2. The motion did not carry. Ron made a motion to take a vote which resulted in option #2 receiving the majority of votes. A motion was made to accept the results of the vote for the new sign. Suzanne/Emerson; motion carried.

2. Field Office of the Future: Jessica submitted a report outlining the plans for the Field Office of the Future. The next steering committee meeting is scheduled for August 15th; she asked for a board member to attend. Emerson will try to attend. The deadline for the final plan is September 1st.

B. NRCS Agreements Renewal: Ramona was not present and submitted a written report. NRCS has requested additional funding for the 2012 Outreach, Rivers, Ag Tech, Ag Inventory, and Geese agreements, and will seek to renew these and the Engineering agreement for 2013. Once funded, the FY 2012-2013 budget will be revised. The Board agreed that Eastern District staff will be involved with any/all agreements.

V. Reports

A. District Manager: Jessica submitted a written report.

1. Geese: The current Geese Project is complete aside from reporting

and data entry of collected information. Jessica met with DEM Water Resources Deputy Chief, Sue Kiernan and Northern District Manager, Gina DeMarco, on July 11th to discuss the possibility of continuing and expanding the Geese Project. Jessica will submit a proposal to DEM by the end of the month.

2. Outreach: The Third Round Workshop was held on July 18th at Watson Farm where Don & Heather Minto lead a farm tour highlighting the NRCS practices they have implemented. Jessica attended Bio Security Training on July 19th and trained Kate Sayles and Becca Buckler in FFOS Planning.

3. Jessica will attend the State Technical Team meeting at the end of August and the State Conservation Committee meeting on September 12th.

B. Chair:

1. Walter reported that some mosquitoes in Tiverton tested positive for Triple E virus.

2. The Washington County Fair begins August 15th. NRCS will set up a table at the Farm Bureau/USDA tent and is accepting volunteers to work.

3. The left over office equipment should be taken to the town transfer station.

4. Walter inspected the Moniz Farm and reported that everything is in order.

C. Directors:

1. Ron: The Twilight Meeting at URI concerning crop trials, pest problems, etc. is scheduled for August 21st at 5:30 – 8:30 pm.

2. Emerson: Emerson visited the Salmon Fish Hatchery in Juneau, AL and shared his photos.

3. Suzanne: Nothing new to report.

D. RISCC: The next SCC meeting is scheduled for September 12th at 9:15 am at NRCS.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.