

**Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District**

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

**ERICD Board Meeting**

**February 12, 2013**

**7:00 PM**

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

**Present were: ERICD: Directors: Walter Elwell, Ron Mucci, Emerson Wildes, District Manager: Jessica Blackledge; NRCS: Melissa Hayden; RISCC: Debra Aiello.**

**I. Minutes: Walter approved the January 12th Minutes as presented. No board member had any comment or corrections**

**II. Financial Report: Financial Report was presented and accepted to be recorded as presented. NRCS will be depositing 600.00 to the Bank of Newport account. The Board would like to be contacted when the deposit is sent and recorded.**

**III. NRCS Report:**

**A. The second round ranking deadline for EQIP, WHIP, AMA is February 15, 2013.**

**B. Third round ranking deadline for EQIP, WHIP, AMA is April 19, 2013**

**C. NRCS will be holding Program Training on February 19th and 20th. District staff is welcome to attend.**

**D. RI Nurseries chose to appeal an NRCS decision to the FSA county committee.**

**Hearing was held on February 6, 2013; no word on outcome.**

**E. Project updates: The Forest Stand Improvement Project and the Fencing Project have been completed. The Wishing Stone Farm completed CNMP implementation.**

#### **IV. Old Business:**

**A. District Relationship with Oversight Committee:**

**B. SCC Policies Sub-committee:**

**1. Meeting was held on February 6, 2013. Permission was received to investigate cost to have someone take suggestions and write policy. If anyone knows of someone with qualifications to do this, please contact Ramona.**

**2. Two flyers will be developed; one will focus on watersheds and the other, land management.**

**C. Board Recruitment:**

**1. The board would like to stagger the election dates. A motion was made to stagger the appointed dates. Emerson/Ron; passed with a request for action by the state committee.**

**D. Detail report on Harvest Dinner 11/20/2012**



**2. 1. A motion was made to allow Dick Hart to sign checks for ERICD Ron/ Emerson, 2yay, 1 nay; motion passed**

**3.**

## **VI. Reports:**

### **A. District Manager's Report:**

#### **Geese:**

**DEM will be funding the Geese Project through December 2014, with a strong potential for continued funding and expansion of the program in years to come. Jessica will be working with DEM to develop a more detailed work plan timeline and budget. The agreement with DEM, will also include 20,000.00 to support two years of Abatement work to be performed by USDA-APHIS at Roger Williams Park in Providence.**

**The Cities & Towns Convention and the Save The Lakes meeting to promote the Geese Project with much positive momentum resulting from these opportunities.**

**Jesse has been in contact with the URI Watershed Watch and they are very interested in working with the District on Geese Management.**

#### **A. NRCS Outreach:**

**The ERICs next Outreach/NRCS workshop is in the planning phase with the end of March being the projected time. We will be holding the workshop on a Farm with a High Tunnel. This will be an open house format workshop with a Farm Tour.**

**The final Report for the Outreach 2012 agreement has been completed and submitted to USDA- NRCS.**

#### **B. FFOS:**

**Jessie has completed five FFOS plans this month and is assisting the SCC in organizing the list of landowners currently enrolled in FFOS with a farmland designation in order to efficiently notify current enrollees that they must have a current Conservation Plan as part of the FFOS Program requirements.**

**C. FOOTF:**

**Open House event to showcase the office and ERICD & NRCS partnership was held this evening. Jessie planned the event and spent time on advertising, logistics and outreach.**

**D. Fee for Service:**

**1.**

**1. A menu of services was provided to the SCC at the last meeting for review and comment. Jesse is waiting to hear back from the district and will keep the board posted.**

**E. Town Funding Requests:**

**1. The Town of Warren is holding a Budget Workshop on March 2, 2013. A declaration was made by Walter to ask Dick to attend the meeting; at last resort Jessie will attend.**

**Office Updates:**

**A. Petty Cash Account:**

**1. Previous balance in Petty Cash Account was 204.10. After account activity: (Staples office supplies, ink-128.23, copy paper, box-26.48) (soups for Open House- 46.00) the balance remaining is 3.39. A motion was made to replenish Petty Cash Account to 200.00. Emerson/Ron; motion passed.**

**B. Miscellaneous Announcements:**

**1. Jessie is interested in developing a Rain Barrel program whereby, through partnership with the RI Water Lady, the District could sell Rain Barrels to interested landowners and make 10.00 off each sale to benefit the organization.**

**B. Chair:**

**1. Walter contacted three local farm groups to bid on 8 Rod.**

**2. Water and the Board would like to thank Jessica for the refreshments and the time she spent planning the Open House.**

**C. Directors:**

**1. Ron is planning a Fertility Management workshop on Sunday March 17th 1:00-3:30.**

**D. RISCC:**

**1. A process is developing by which current enrollees of the FFOS program are asked to provide a copy of their current conservation plan. They are required to have a plan The SCC will be creating a database for properties, first contacting those enrolled after 2005.**

**2. Two fees for service flyers will be developed from the list of services. One will focus on watersheds and one on land management.**

**3. Ken Ayars asked that we have the SCC/CD memorandum of understanding reviewed.**

**4. RIACD submitted a letter requesting that legislative changes be made to the CD's to increase Board size.**

**5. A series of four workshops on Small Scale Forestry will be held in Scituate, Glocester, Foster and Burrillville in March.**

**6. A plan for the Outreach agreement was submitted at the end of November. Final approval for all components has not yet been issued by NRCS. The next round of workshops is being planned.**

**7. Our engineering technician will be developing a design for remediation of a site at Mount Hope High School in Bristol that consistently floods.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2013 at 7:00pm.**