

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

2490 Main Road

Tiverton, RI 02878

Phone (401) 816-5677

ERICD Board Meeting

May 14, 2013

7:00 PM

Interim Chairman Emerson Wildes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present were: Directors: Emerson Wildes, Ron Mucci, Richard Hart; District Manager: Jessica Blackledge; RISCC: Ramona LeBlanc, Debra Aiello; NRICD: Jean Lynch.

I. Minutes: A motion was made to accept the April 9, 2013 minutes; Dick/ Ron: unanimous.

II. Financial Report: A motion was made to accept the April Financials; Emerson/Dick: unanimous. Ramona is looking for input from the Board to prepare for the next FY budget.

III. NRCS Report:

A. EQUIP, WHIP and AMA round 3 deadlines were extended until May 17th, due to FSA farm and tract system being down.

B. A meeting took place with officials from Newport and Warren for potential funding through the EWP for cleanup following Hurricane Sandy.

IV. RIACD:

A. Emerson brought back some ideas and information that he had acquired at the RIACD Board meeting. One idea was to conduct a Board meeting at a local farm. He also informed the Board that a lobbyist was hired to promote funding for conservation districts and support the farm bill.

V. Old Business:

A. Election of Chair to ERICD: The Board requested removing this topic from the agenda for the time being.

B. Rain Barrel: No Report

C. Board Recruitment: The Board has a few potential nominees at this time. Jean offered to volunteer her time to promote ERICD programs to the public to possibly bring in new candidates.

D. Annual Dinner: The additional expense for the annual dinner was paid.

E. Other: Emerson asked that a 15 minute executive session take place after next months meeting to review Jessica's job description.

V. New Business:

A. Goose Abatement Agreement: Jessica provided a copy of the Goose Abatement Agreement to the Board for review. Additional copies will be provided upon request. The agreement provides project funding for geese projects and for field work on the Roger Williams Park geese population project.

B. New Property Manager: The building being occupied by ERICD is under new management. Jessica provided a copy of the lease to the board and suggested the interim Chair schedule a meeting with the new property manager.

C. Tiverton Harbor Committee Request: After a discussion, the Board decided to put this request on next month's agenda for further discussion.

D. Office Phone: The ERICD office phone does not allow outgoing calls. Jessica requested the Board re-evaluate the condition. Ron requested that Jessica get an idea of what it would cost per month to upgrade the plan and give a report at next month's meeting.

VII. Reports:

District Manager:

- 1. Geese report was provided under new business.**
- 2. ERICD's next Outreach/NRCS Conservation Open House will be held at Sandy Woods Farm on Thursday, May 23, 2013 from 4-7pm.**
- 3. Jessica attended the RI Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Open House on April 30th. Members of RIACC are very interest in partnering with their local Conservation Districts and Jessie is looking into ways to develop closer relationships with the local Conservation Commissions.**
- 4. Jessie is assisting the RI State Committee in organizing the list of landowners currently enrolled in FFOS with a Farmland designation to inform them that they must have a current Conservation Plan as part of the FFOS requirements.**
- 5. An article was developed by Jessica for publication in the June issue of the Narragansett Bay Journal showcasing Conservation Districts and how people can cooperate and get involved. The Board was given a copy of the article to provide input.**
- 6. Jessie reported that there was no account activity in the petty cash**

account. The remaining balance in the account is 191.39.

7. The following meetings are coming up in May:

- Ag Council Dinner Meeting-May 16, 2013**
- RI SCC Meeting –May 23, 2013**
- ERICD Outreach/NRCS Conservation open house**

B. Chair: No Report

Directors: No Report

RISCC: No Report

The meeting adjourned at 9:40

The next meeting will be on June 11, 2013 at 7:00.