

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR
Eastern RI Conservation District
PO Box 158 – Tiverton, RI 02878 – (401)-816-5667
ERICD Board Meeting
April 14, 2015 7:00 pm Sandywoods
73 Muse Way (Yellow Building), Tiverton, RI 02878**

- I. Call to Order, Introductions:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Present were: Directors: Emerson Wildes (Chair), Ron Mucci, Russ Smith, Dick Hart; District Manager: Jessica Blackledge; RI SCC: Ramona LeBlanc; NRCS: Melissa Hayden; and ERICD Board Candidate: Nancy Parker Wilson.

Nancy Parker Wilson was introduced to all members of the Board, and vice versa. Nancy has submitted her Nomination Papers for ERICD Board Membership.

- II. Changes/ Additions to Agenda:** No changes or additions to the agenda were made.

- III. Minutes from March 10, 2015 Meeting:** Emerson requested the minutes from the March meeting be read aloud. Russ read the minutes from the March 10th meeting aloud. Revisions were requested by Russ and Jessica on the Petty Cash replenishment request and Dick Hart's Director's Report. These revision will be made and posted in the final draft of the minutes from March 10, 2015. Russ moved to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Ron and passed unanimously.

IV. Reports:

- A. NRCS** – Melissa provided a written NRCS activity report and provided training and information on NRCS's Access Control practice. Melissa also mentioned that URI & NRCS will be hosting a workshop on High Tunnels on Tuesday April 21, at 3PM at the Agronomy Farm on the URI Kingston Campus.
- B. Financials** – Ramona provided a written Financial Report and Projected Budget through September 30, 2015. Russ made a motion that the ERICD is in receipt of the financial reports. Motion was seconded by Dick and passed unanimously.
- C. RISCC** – Ramona reported on the RI SCC Strategic Planning session held in March. The SCC will have a second Strategic Planning session on May 5, 2015 to develop a strategy based on the Core Values developed. The SCC requests that all District Board Members review the list of Core Values developed by the SCC, add any core values that may be missing, and rank each Core Value on a high-low scale of importance. The SCC requests a response from ERICD Board Members by May 4th, 2015.
- Ramona also reported on FFOS Whole Farm Conservation Planning stating that the SCC is working on developing an agreement with NRCS to support development of these plans. Partners at NRCS and SCC are also trying to set up a staff training in RI for next year to address the training required to develop NRCS-level plans.
- D. RIACD** – The Chair stated there was nothing to report this month.

E. District Manager – DM provided a written report and provided highlights to the board. DM reported continued concerns about ERICD laptop health and longevity and requested the Board consider taking action soon.

F. Directors

- ~ Ron reported that URI and NRCS will be hosting a High Tunnel workshop on April 21st.
- ~ Dick reported on the winter moth hatch and Heather Faubert's email re: same. Also reported on geese starving to death in the area, Newport Water's water quality meeting and working on a plan and site location for a recycling facility in Tiverton.
- ~ Russ reported that he now has 47 ducks and starting next week his duck eggs will be available for purchase at Lee's Market in Westport. Russ also reported that he has resigned his position at Sandywoods and as such his contact information has changed. Russ stated he will email the Board his new contact info.
- ~ Emerson reported on attending the Ag Council's annual meeting and the Ag Council's mission. Emerson stated that Al Bettencourt has stepped down from his position of President of the Ag Council and Kristen Castrataro was elected as the new President.

V. Old Business

A. Board Recruitment – Nancy Parker Wilson has submitted her Nomination Forms with all required signatures and submits her request for consideration Board Membership.

Dick Hart provided verbal notice, to be followed by written notice, of his intention to step down from Director to Associate Director to allow for Nancy's appointment to the ERICD Board should the ERICD Board and the SCC Board approve. Dick's term is expired and, as such, a letter may not be required. By general consensus, the ERICD supports Nancy's appointment to the ERICD Board and requests the RI SCC make such appointment at its next meeting on April 15, 2015.

B. Cooperative Projects - Sandywoods Farm & RWU Sustainability

Student Projects – Students from RWU's Sustainability 401 course are currently working to complete their special projects with Sandywoods before the end of the semester. Currently ERICD is working with four groups of students working on four different projects:

1. A survey of the Sandywoods residents on the Farmer's Market and Community Garden at Sandywoods including a Farmer's Market Plan
2. Design and Construction of a Sustainable Garden Shed for the Community Garden
3. Design of an Open Air Amphitheatre
4. Development of a Garden Education Program for YMCA's Camp Sandywoods.

ERICD will continue to provide support and guidance to the students while they complete their projects.

C. Proposed District Record Book – Standing agenda item. Nothing to report and no discussion/action was taken this month.

D. Proposed Grant Committee – Standing agenda item. Nothing to report and no discussion/action was taken this month.

E. FFOS Planning – Referenced under “IV. Reports C. RI SCC” above.

F. ERICD Technology Needs – DM reported that the District laptop is approaching 4 years old. That the computer recently had a problem that required a factory reset and reinstallation of the operating system and all software. DM reported that she is still having problems with the computer. Temporary solutions that help ameliorate issues, have been found. However, the DM recommends that the Board begin a discussion related to updating the District’s computer technology to prevent a similar situation from occurring again and possibly provide redundancy of equipment so ERICD can at least limp along in the event another system failure occurs.

Russ moved to have DM research options on replacing computer within a \$500 budget and report back to Board on May 12th. Ron seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business

No New Business

VIII. Adjourn – Dick made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Russ and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9PM.

Next Meeting: May 12, 2015 at 7PM at Sandywoods.