

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR  
Eastern RI Conservation District  
PO Box 158 – Tiverton, RI 02878 – (401)-816-5667  
ERICD Board Meeting  
May 12, 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 7:14 pm. Present were: Directors: Emerson Wildes (Chair), Russ Smith, Suzanne Hourihan and Nancy Parker-Wilson; District Manager: Jessica Blackledge; and NRCS: Melissa Hayden.

Nancy was congratulated on her nomination to the ERICD Board and welcomed as a new District Director by all in attendance.

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

- III. Minutes from April 14, 2015 Meeting:** Minutes were presented via email in advance of the meeting and in hard copy during the meeting to those that required it. Russ moved to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Suzanne and passed unanimously.

**IV. Reports:**

- A. NRCS** – Melissa provided a written NRCS activity report and provided training and information on NRCS’s Animal Trails and Walkways practice.
- B. Financials** – Ramona provided a written Financial Report via email in advance of the meeting. Hard copies were provided to those that required it during the meeting. Russ made a motion that the ERICD is in receipt of the financial reports. Motion was seconded by Nancy and passed unanimously.
- C. RISCC** – Ramona provided minutes from the last RI SCC meeting via email in advance of the meeting. Hard copies were provided to those that required it during the meeting.
- D. RIACD** – The Chair stated there was nothing to report this month.
- E. District Manager** – DM provided a written report in hard copy during the meeting and provided highlights orally to the board. DM requested replenishing the Petty Cash account to \$200.00. Suzanne moved that the Petty Cash account be replenished to \$200.00. Nancy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- F. Directors**
- ~ Russ reported that the CT Department of Agriculture is looking for new homes for approximately 90 goats. He directed us to the CT Dept. of Ag website. He also reported that Sandywoods will not be hosting a Farmers Market this season. He stated that the Farmers Market at the Weaver Public Library is offering organic farmers free vendor spots at their

Farmers Market this year. Finally, he reported that he will be selling his duck eggs at the Pawtuxet Market.

- ~ Nancy stated that she had nothing to report.
- ~ Suzanne stated she had nothing to report.
- ~ Emerson reported on the RI SCC Strategic Planning meeting.

## V. Old Business

**A. Board Recruitment** – Nancy Parker Wilson was officially welcomed by the ERICD Board as a District Director after her appointment by the RI SCC on April 15, 2015 to ERICD Board Membership.

The Board discussed other people that may be interested in Board Service and requested the DM ask Ron to follow-up with Jay Miller given their acquaintance.

**B. Cooperative Projects - Sandywoods Farm & RWU Sustainability Student Projects** – A report on this item was provided in the DM Report. The ERICD Board is curious if there will be a follow-up meeting with the RWU Professor (Steve Esons) to discuss accomplishments, setbacks and possibility for continued partnership in the coming semesters. DM stated she would lodge a request for such a meeting with the SCC if the ERICD Board desired. Board directed DM to make this request.

**C. Proposed District Record Book** – Standing agenda item. Nothing to report. Chair declared that this item be removed from the agenda as a standing item.

**D. Proposed Grant Committee** – Standing agenda item. Nothing to report. Chair declared that this item be removed from the agenda as a standing item.

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

**F. ERICD Technology Needs** – DM reported that the District laptop finally suffered a hard drive failure on 4/23/15. Although the DM had done some research into replacing the laptop within a \$500 budget as directed by the Board during the April meeting, an executive decision needed to be made in order for the District to continue operations as quickly as possible. After diagnosing the issue, DM purchased a new hard drive for the ERICD laptop on 4/24/15 and spent the next few days installing the hard drive, operating system, all programs and updates required for operation and project activities. As such, the technology update ERICD thought may be required in the near future has been resolved at a much more affordable cost.

## VI. New Business

**A. NOFA/RI MOU** – The NOFA/RI MOU currently under consideration by the SCC and the Districts was presented to the ERICD Board via email in advance of the meeting and hard copies were provided at the meeting for those that required it. The ERICD Board held some discussion and is in support of this agreement but prefers to wait and hear of the outcome of discussions at the RI SCC level before taking any action in this regard.

**B. RI SCC Strategic Planning** – Emerson reported on the most recent meeting of the RI SCC Strategic Planning Sub-Committee. He stated that for the next meeting ERICD will need to provide a list of their priority needs. He also reported on Director Training possibilities and stated he is unsure of the date of the next RISSC Strategic Planning session.

**C. Selection of Officers** – Emerson, as Chair, requested volunteers to assume responsibility as Chair of the ERICD. Russ volunteered to act as Chair and assume the responsibilities of running the ERICD Board Meetings, developing meeting Agendas and signing future agreements. Suzanne made a motion that Russ become the new Chair of the ERICD Board. Nancy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Emerson will continue to attend RI SCC meetings as the ERICD delegate and will retain signature authority on all bank accounts for the time being.

**D. Scheduling Board Financial Meeting with Ramona** – Ramona has requested a meeting with the ERICD Board to present and discuss the 2015-2016 budget she will be preparing for ERICD. She stated that she is available Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the day. A discussion was held on proposed meeting times with the Board requesting scheduling to meet with Ramona on either 5/21/15 at 9:30AM or 5/26/15 at 9:30AM. DM will convey these options to Ramona and facilitate meeting scheduling meeting space reservations.

**VIII. Adjourn** – Russ declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30PM.

Next Meeting: June 9, 2015 at 7PM at Sandywoods.