

**Southern Rhode Island Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting**

Minutes of July 10, 2006

Present: Board Members: Rudi Hempe, Acting Chair; Harriet Powell, Secretary; Steve DelPozzo, Treasurer; Clark Collins. Associate Members: Kelly Fox, Ross Adrain. Staff: Alicia Lehrer, District Manager; Patty Tanalski, Patty Gambarini, Kris Stuart. NRCS District Conservationist: Mike Kenyon.

The meeting was called to order at 5:58 p.m.

Rudy asked for any additions to the agenda. Harriet asked that Patty Tanalski's appointment to RC&D be put to a vote, and Mike Kenyon also added an item under his Conservationist Report.

Minutes: Minutes for June meeting: Steve made a motion to accept, Harriet seconded, and the motion carried.

Financial Reports: Two sheets (filed with these minutes) passed out. One illustrates actual income and expenditures for last fiscal year. It is self-explanatory. The second one shows projected income and expenses, and it indicates possible financial trouble in September. One option is to use line-of-credit to offset. January looks good. Have income from North Kingstown and South Kingstown as well as other listed sources. Meetings re: finances with Mitch Turner of Blue Wave Consulting will probably start next week. Alicia will report on findings at next meeting.

Conservationist Report: Mike Kenyon. DEM reported problem with effluent on Cottrell Farm. Apparently, no soil and sediment controls in place and effluent entered an adjacent wetland. NRCS has been discussing with Cottrell how to handle the discharge. Chief Knight of NRCS visited RI and was impressed by NRCS activity. Whether or not NRCS will move to another location is still undecided. Mike and Mike Merrill's proposal to divide districts and oversee without hiring an additional NRCS person not yet decided on. District staff not willing to sign federal security forms and be fingerprinted will be removed from NRCS/USDA network at end of July. Kris has already completed forms.

RIACD: No report. Meeting will be held after SRICD meeting.

RC&D: A motion was made and seconded that Patty Tanalski be elected to RC&D as a member; motion carried. Work continues on dry hydrant program. For the Rhody Warm project, 900 pounds of wool from sheep farmers' co-op has been cleaned and returned to RI for fashioning into (probably) throws. Soil and Sediment Handbook now has tri-state status, and the Coverts program has been upgraded to a three-year program. RI

Foundation is considering a grant to support the new Forest Stewardship Pilot Program for forest owners in northern part of the state.

RIRDC: Executive meeting cancelled. Next meeting will be combination of executive board and membership in August.

RI State Committee: Rescheduled meeting with Kevin Flynn will be made. Blue Wave Consulting may work for all three Districts in the fall. Committee adopted a motion on communication among districts re: out-of-district job acceptance.

RI State Technical Team: No report

Other: Patty Gambarini and Alicia went to Scott Millar's workshop on Conservation Development. Ross commented on storm water training.

Program Updates:

Growing a Future/Three Sisters: The gardens are built and the planting has started. Both grants end on September 30, 2006 and more funds are being sought.

Duck Cove Monitoring: No change from last update.

Stormwater Center, Phase II Implementation Narragansett: Workshops was held for Narragansett Parks and Recreation and the school grounds departments on converting landscape care to a fully organic protocol with Chip Osborne from Marblehead, MA.

DOT Phase II: No contract as yet. Agreement will probably come this week and then can sign contract with URI.

Discouraging Waterfowl: Done with current contract. Geese will be discouraged from loafing at Bostitch and to go elsewhere (probably Quonset golf course).

Livestock Inventory: Saugatucket watershed has been completed; now moving to the Pawcatuck, then to Queens River. NRCS has asked for rapid assessment for the Pawcatuck in order to get the big picture of resources and concerns.

Farm Bill Work for NRCS: Looking into Peckham Farm soil loss, area mainly planted in potatoes. Soil loss as result of current practices is being studied.

North Kingstown Workshops: Kris will present workshop at the end of July for the Public Works Highway Department staff on the operation and maintenance of storm water systems. Also writing up a proposal for restricting water overuse in residential areas with a variety of conservation practices, including management of sprinkler systems, and raising awareness of water conservation practices.

New Proposals:

- There are 16 hours of work to do at Saw Mill Pond through the end of July. Plan is to find agencies to fund fish passage plan. This would constitute a short-term commitment by North Kingstown to work with the District.
- Proposal in Narragansett.
- Alicia in contact with Executive Service Corps re: marketing. Will meet with them after work with Blue Wave completed.
- Capacity Building grant proposal out to RI Foundation to work with Blue Wave Consulting and Executive Service Corps.
- 319/Narragansett Bay Watershed Restoration Grant proposals. Due July 27. Narragansett will pay SRICD to develop proposals to do feasibility studies for storm water management in the Narrow River, Crooked Brook and Point Judith Pond Watersheds. Meeting with North Kingstown Planning staff about Saw Mill Pond proposal. There may be a proposal through the Narragansett Bay Watershed Restoration Fund for SRICD to work in cooperation with Bostitch to make landscape changes that will exclude geese but will be discussed first.
- Kellogg-Noyes grant deals with people of color. Ideal for Indian Council and food security goals. If chosen, they will get \$30,000 plus \$7,500 for consultants for three years to put together a proposal. SRICD would get \$10,000/yr.

SRICD Committees:

Finance Committee: Report from Mitch Turner of Blue Wave Consulting will be given in September.

ERT Committee: Hopkinton did not work out. Looking for other municipalities.

Events/Outreach:

Riverfest: SRICD planned to have Kelly Fox attend. Date was changed twice without giving us adequate notice and a frustrated Kelly could not attend on the final date. SRICD will communicate its disappointment to the planning committee about poor communication.

SRICD listing on Grow Smart website: \$175 for 2006-2007. Steve moved and Harriet seconded to go forward; motion carried.

Annual Dinner Meeting Planning:

Possible speaker/topic:

Suggestions of Lisa Tewksbury on purple loosestrife work, Laura Meyerson on Phragmites and Frank Golet on RI Wetlands.

Suggestions for awards:

- **Legislators:** Rep. Bob Watson and Mike Lenihan for Big River legislation declaring area open space
- **Town:** Town of West Greenwich for overwhelming vote to save Shephard (etc.) land as open space.
- **Educator:** Scott Millar for his workshop on Conservation Design.
- **Farmer/Cooperator:** Will get suggestions from Mike Kenyon and Mike will set up tour for board.

Harriet moved and Steve seconded to award Scott Millar Educator and investigate others.

Discussion will continue as prospective awardees are contacted.

SRICD Office: Some discussion as to options for new location. Will have to vacate current space whether NRCS moves or not. Rudi said that the Bald Hill Nursery site will not be ready for occupancy for some time, so District needs a temporary location. Alicia will be looking for one and will report findings in September.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm

Respectfully submitted,

**Harriet Powell
SRICD Board Secretary**