

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

Minutes of April 10, 2006

Present: Board Members; Pat Lenihan, Chair; Rudi Hempe, temporary chair until Pat arrived; Harriet Powell, Secretary, Steve DelPozzo, Treasurer; Members: Clarke Collins. Associate Members: Marjorie Weeden, Kelly Fox, Ross Adrain Staff: Alicia Lehrer, District Manager; Kris Stuart, Patty Gambarini, Patty Tanalski; Guests: Jean Lynch, Sec. RIACD. Dick Donnelly.

Rudi Hempe called the meeting to order at 6:05.

Minutes: The minutes of the February meeting were approved as presented. Steve moved and Harriet seconded.

Dick Donnelly's report on upcoming raffle at seedling sale. Everyone asked to collect raffle items. No raffle items will be at seedling sale, only envelopes with type of raffle item on outside and description inside. All were asked to donate and look for businesses to donate. Bring envelopes to meeting on April 8. Should probably have a not-good-after date, but not specifically stated.

Financial Reports: Cash Flow. Alicia reported that things are looking better. Have Cooperative Extension contract. Had meeting with NK and several jobs have resulted, and others are in works as a result of Patty Gambarini's work on lawns, etc Also, have meeting set up with Mitch Turner, instead of ESC, to look at finances. Looking at writing a grant to pay for his services. He agreed that a line-of-credit was a good idea, and he will look at billing rate and how to keep Alicia from being laid off-at least a breakeven situation may appear. Meeting with Mitch is May 9 at 2:00pm, Re: DEM late payments—they are playing hard ball as far as paying, and Mitch said in this situation good idea to have line-of-credit to tide over, but should not increase the amount.. Alicia explained the specifics of the problems with some of the payments to the committee. In one case, sent a bill for \$6000. Sue Kiernan going to see we get \$2000 of the \$6000. DEM usually holds back 10% for a specified time. Problem with City of Warwick money is that Warwick not living up to Letter of Commitment., which means that we must now put out bids for our work because of the way that contract was arranged.

NRCS may be moving, which leaves SRICD without a home because would not be able to pay new rental costs. Will know in about a month, Rudi has approached Rich Schartner about space in his new Bald Hill Nursery purchase . Kettle Pond Visitors Center was also suggested as a possible new home. Harriet moved to accept the financial report, Steve seconded.

Reports

Conservationist Report: Alicia. Rain garden not funded in Narragansett and Richmond, but still a possibility later on. Major wildlife projects are in the works. Harriet gave the committee some information on the Land Conservancy of North Kingstown's WHIP grant at Dworman Pond and upstream to control the purple loosestrife.

EQIP update: 55 applications approved for contract development on statewide basis
25 (45%) were approved for contract development in SRICD
3 have estimated contracts of over \$150,000.
Estimate contract amount of \$1,186,893.00 currently under development for fiscal year 2006 EQIP in SRICD

RIACD: Jean Lynch, Secretary of the RIACD reported that Rudi was elected to the board of that body at the last RIACD meeting. Items on RIACD agenda, wood expo and by-law updating. Jean also explained her attendance at NACD conferences and what District issues she was able to bring to the attention of RI's legislators in Washington and how important it was for them to be made aware of them. Need new folks to volunteer to follow in Jean's footsteps. Pat emphasized the importance of keeping legislators apprised of the important function the Districts in RI fill. People who keep legislators informed are doing a critical service for the State. Rhode Island needs to fight to keep its share of funds. It is important to keep funding at same level.

RC&D: Mostly same issues. Still working on revised by-laws. Wood expo was held on 7-8th of April. Still pending a decision the Soil Erosion and Sediment handbook which DEM hopes will be a tristate effort, and looking into a new pilot program to train forest owners in the Scituate watershed.

RI Ag Council See accompanying sheet.

RIRDC. Next meeting is scheduled for April 28th. Rudy reported that Whitney Ohanian had gotten a two-year grant to provide service to small farms. Rudy also reported that the URI Plant Clinic is just going to do commercial from now on. Also, a new greenhouse bill has been proposed making those structures mounted in the ground taxable, but as long as used by farmer, untaxable.

RI State Committee: Next meeting is April 12.

RI State Technical Team: Has not met since the last report.

Other: Pat announced the New Urbanism meeting in June. Susan reported on ECRI meeting called ECRI for Water Security, relates to Hunt River. Others included meeting about Riparian buffers, Grow Smart Conference on May 12, Norman Bird Sanctuary on April 13, Food security on Saturday morning April 15 at URI, and others.

Program Updates (time for reports was limited by discussion with Dick Donnelly

Growing a Future/Three Sisters Envirothon team meeting with the Tribe. Susan is meeting with to measure the beds tomorrow

Project Wet Completed.

Duck Cove Monitoring Draft report completed. Starting last year of monitoring.

Greenwich Bay Storm Water DEM is working out City of Warwick's involvement.

Stormwater Center, Phase II Implementation Narragansett Great feed back on newsletter . Looking at entire proposal as wild-life habitat proposal rather than just rain garden proposal. Also looking a chemicals and pesticide applications to Town fields. Suggestion, replace soccer field with Astroturf. Huge expenditure

Livestock Inventory Need intern or interns, reliable and with a car in order to do properly

Farm Bill Work for NRCS: No report this time. Report next time.

Camp Jori: finished

NK Workshops; being prepared

Seedling Sale Update : Going back to old model. Rudi will alert Alicia when plants arrive and she will contact volunteers. Please bring newspapers, elastics and plastic bags. Marjorie was asked about providing pictures of plants being sold as she has done in the past.

Old Business: Draft of MOU with RC&D approved electronically (?).

SRICD Committees

Finance Committee. To meet with Mitch on May 9th at 2:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:22.

Addenda: From Susan. Movie by Al Gore on selling off public lands, called, "An Inconvenient Truth; something about coal burning, Coalition for Water Security, RI lacking: stream flow standards, limits on withdrawal, reportage of drilling of private wells; coordination of withdrawals, requirements for reuse. Other water quality and quantity data including 78% of Kent County water increase used for lawn watering, and citing of other data that would protect the public water supply and wildlife habitat. Kelly's report on Ag Committee passed out separately.

Respectfully submitted, Harriet Powell, SRICD Board Secretary.