

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

Minutes of March 13, 2006

Present: Directors; Rudi Hempe, temporary chair in the absence of Pat Lenihan; Harriet Powell, Secretary; Steve DelPozzo, Treasurer; Clark Collins. Associate Directors: Kelly Fox, Harvey Buford, Ross Adrain. Staff: Alicia Lehrer, District Manager; Kris Stuart, Patty Gambarini, Patty Tanalski. NRCS: Mike Kenyon.

Rudi Hempe called the meeting to order at 5:58. Harriet asked that agenda mention submission of written information when meeting reached the last *Reports* agenda item under, *Other meetings, news items for discussion, clippings for scrap book*

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

Financial Reports: Need volunteers to attend Town Meetings and ask for allocations before Town budgets are in process of finalization. Westerly, no new allocation. Usually Conservation Commission puts in Westerly budget. Clark will attend Narragansett Town Council Meeting and make SRICD request, Ross will do Coventry on April 19, Pat will do East Greenwich and Steve will do West Greenwich. Alicia will provide all with what district has done in their towns.

Reports

Conservationist Report: Mike Kenyon. NRCS is devising application for energy efficiency. WHIP: The tribe's application has not yet been received; they are all set and eligible to remove invasives. The list of WHIP application approvals is coming up. All will not be approved but are eligible and can apply next year. Rudi asked Mike for application details about agricultural waste disposal.

RC&D: Many of same issues are working through the system. Working on by-laws and a new application to restore habitat for ruffed grouse. Restoring grouse habitat has many other benefits for the environment. RC&D Council writing legislators to maintain appropriations for RC&Ds nationwide. Voted \$500.00 for the Envirothon. Rudi reported that the Ocean State woodturners were having a meeting with Chris Modisette, Coordinator for RC&D, regarding a fall auction and/or sale sponsored by DEM Forestry of wooden items made by the woodturners. Alicia said the Envirothon was requesting \$200.00 from SRICD. Steve moved to vote \$200 be given to Envirothon and Harriet seconded.

RI Ag Council This coming Thursday. Kelly Fox will attend.

RDC: Membership meets quarterly. Next meeting in April. In meantime, RDC and RC&D are investigating partnership to deal with some common rural issues.

RI State Committee: Next meeting is April 12.

RI State Technical Team: Kris clarified that EQIP rating criteria was needed by March 13 meeting.

Other: Harriet requested that if anyone wanted an item mentioned specifically in the minutes, that he/she submits the information to the Secretary in writing. Rudi, long-time SRICD secretary, agreed that such a policy would assist the Secretary greatly. The Land and Water Conference on March 11 and a Grow Smart meeting were mentioned. Rudi mentioned session on organic landscaping and that there are 500 businesses in Mass, only 5 in RI doing organic landscaping. In Canada, CT and NJ, ChemLawns are banned, pushing market toward organic methods.

Program Updates (limited by the need for some members to attend RIACD meeting at 7:30pm, following SRICD meeting; some entries were not discussed)

Growing a Future/Three Sisters:

Project Wet Susan was absent

Duck Cove Monitoring Kris Stuart. Last year's monitoring was reported and comments came back early. There will be another round of testing next year

Greenwich Bay Storm Water

Stormwater Center, Phase II Implementation Narragansett Patty Gambarini.

Storm water revisions after Year 1, i.e., revision of plan based on first year of experience. Now working on Year 2. Emphases on reducing pesticide and fertilizer. Maintenance of year 1 work overseen by Narragansett. Sent newsletter on the Town's Phase II activities to 8,000 Narragansett residents.

DOT Phase II Alicia. Kicked off at URI. SRICD plans to sign sub-contract for 3.5 years for \$30,000. This contract will pay for itself based on new pricing scheme discussed by SRICD Finance Committee in a previous report.

Camp Jori Alicia. Completed site-plan review of with 40 units of affordable housing.

Stanton Avenue On hold until Spring.

Discouraging Waterfowl Patty Gambarini. Stanley-Bostitch and Golf Course report done last week. Recommendations: Pond removal at Bostitch is a possibility, convert existing fire pond area into rain garden. In other cases, geese chased away and someone else's problem.

Livestock Inventory Had GPS problems in Saugatucket and Pawcatuck watersheds with instrument, hopefully straightened out, and will be setting up appointments with farmers.

Farm Bill Work for NRCS : Complicated. One farmer has 500 acres and is planting 7 or 8 different kinds of potatoes. Kris has soil erosion figures, and is checking and writing up new plans and experiencing a few glitches. She is becoming a crop choreographer.

New Projects, NK Workshops, Meadowbrook Waldorf, WHIP Apps.
Whitney O'Hannian, works in outreach for URI, looking to get back into agriculture. Might be a prospective speaker for annual meeting. NK has asked SRICD to hold workshops. Besides Good Housekeeping workshops under Phase II, NK also interested in lawn practices for homeowners, and has asked for proposals. Ross discussed the problems West Warwick has that need correcting, particularly the problems that dams cause as far as flooding and dispersal of pollutants are concerned. Art Gold and Dennis Nixon, both of URI, were mentioned as having expertise on this problem Meadowbrook School applied for WHIP grant to create a rain garden. Specs say must be improving an existing habitat. Will work to develop a good plan.

Seedling Sale Update: Orders are already coming in. Mark May 13 on your calendars. Help may be needed starting on May 8th, depending on when plants arrive at East Farm.

SRICD Committees

Finance Committee. Steve, Harriet. Alicia going to contact the Executive Service Corp. to look at SRICD finances, etc, and make recommendations for more effective and efficient operation.. An upcoming meeting sponsored by the Chambers of Commerce may provide some pertinent information on the topic of finances.

ERT Committee Clark, Harriet, Harvey, Rudi A meeting will be scheduled to discuss Harvey's proposal in Hopkinton to do shakedown of Environmental Review Team Next meeting, TBA.

Marketing Committee Harriet, Rudi. Looking into RI Foundation minigrants. Next meeting: March 20.

Website Development Interns. Students working on website are switching schools, leaving J&W, so we will need to find additional help in this area.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:23. Next meeting is April 10th at 5:30. If you would like to see the second hour of the video about GM food, please come at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted, Harriet Powell, SRICD Board Secretary.