

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

**Minutes of February 13, 2006**

**Present:** Board Members: Pat Lenihan, Chair; Harriet Powell, Secretary; Steve DelPozzo, Treasurer; Members: Rudi Hempe, Clarkson Collins. Associate Members: Kelly Fox. Staff: Alicia Lehrer, District Manager; Kris Stuart, Patty Gambarini, Susan Letendre. NRCS: Mike Kenyon.

**Patricia Lenihan called the meeting to order at 5:55.**

**Agenda was amended to include change in the SRICD and NRCS Cooperative Agreement, and discussion and approval of draft agreement between SRICD and RC&D.**

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January meeting were approved as presented. Rudi moved to accept and Steve seconded.

**Financial Reports:**

**Cash Flow** Finance Committee Report: Steve DelPozzo, Harriet Powell and Alicia have met twice to go over the financial status of the District. Steve's report accompanies these minutes and gives a detailed report on the findings of the Finance Committee. Major findings include insufficient yearly income to cover expenses, salaries, etc., which explains why Alicia has to lay herself off during the year, and highlighted questions about billing and competitiveness with for-profits. Alicia is going to consult a consulting firm, the ESC Team, a group of retired executives that make recommendations to organizations pinpointing problems, advising how to better handle income and outgo, and suggesting better methods of operation to see if SRICD's financial situation can be improved. Steve's report also mentions that SRICD would be running out of money in May 2006, that Alicia probably would have to lay herself off between June and September, and that the extra legislative allocation used by SRICD to pay its rent would now be shared with Eastern and Northern. Under new agreement with NRCS, SRICD is no longer responsible for paying rent, with the provision that they will donate 20 hours per week of secretarial support for RC&D, and that RC&D will move into the District's current space, with SRICD sharing the office. Currently, it was calculated that SRICD was approximately \$8000 in the hole. Ways to increase SRICD's income stream will be pursued and possible grants (Pawcatuck and livestock initiative) were mentioned. Please also see the SRICD draft budget. Clark moved to approve the draft report and Harriet seconded.

## **Reports**

**Conservationist Report:** Mike Kenyon. The date on the Cooperative Agreement between NRCS and SRICD needs to be changed to March 31, extending the agreement. NRCS is currently short-handed but has new programs to administer and many applications to service. NRCS's January 9 workshop handed out 50 packets to attendees; there are currently 103 EQIP applications, 48 of which are from the Southern District; 57 WHIP grants, 27 of which are from Southern, and other applications to serve. Ohio NRCS may be sending engineering help. NRCS has entered into an agreement with Tom Sandham about which he will report at a later meeting.

**RIACD:** Draft of RIACD by-laws is available. Jean Lynch reported on the Association's participation at the Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. The three districts will be sharing a booth at the Wood Expo on April 7 & 8. Cost is \$200 for a 10ft booth. Harriet moved and Rudi seconded that the District share the cost of a booth with Eastern and Northern at the Expo at CCRI.

**RC&D:** Harriet said that Southern, under old by-laws, has two appointees and two alternates. Currently, Harriet is only full-member appointee to board. Kelly and Pat are alternates. By-laws are being revised, so Board decided to wait to appoint another principle delegate until new by-laws are adopted. Harriet gave the Board a report on current RC&D activities, including Rhody Warm (blankets woven from locally grown wool), the Dry Hydrant Program, the Soil Erosion Handbook update proposal, RC&D's participation in the Forest Legacy Program, the Wood-Pawcatuck Stream Continuity Project, the April 7&8 Wood Expo at CCRI, and the plan to reestablish Black Ash, American Chestnut and Walnut on RI tribal lands.

**RI Ag Council:** Has not met since last report.

**RIRDC:** Harriet reported on the January meeting of RDC. Their new projects include: Local Meat Production Feasibility Study; the Rural Heritage and Conservation Tourism Initiative, and a new logo design by Don Bosquet for use by the Shellfisherman's Assn, and a quahog mesh bag.

**RI State Committee:** Alicia reported on the January 8, 2006 State Conservation meeting. Kevin Cute from CRMC attended.

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

**The draft amendment between RC&D and SRICD .** Members are requested to look over the Draft Agreement with RC&D and get back to Alicia by the end of the week. If Alicia does not hear from you that will be an implied vote to approve with the appropriate changes, if any.

**Other:** Members reported on meeting opportunities. (Members reporting on upcoming meetings are asked to give the secretary a brochure or a written description. If reporting on a meeting that someone attended, a written précis would be appreciated. Thank you.)

**Program Updates (time for reports has been curtailed in order to discuss the 2006-2007 Plan of Work):**

**Growing a Future/Three Sisters:** Problems with Indian Council. A member refuses to ask parents to sign waiver for children to ride bus to a venue. Upshot is that Susan will not be involved in discussions between Council and parents and will meet bus at venue.

**Camp Jori:** A new proposal, 14 acres, very wet, SRICD asked to evaluate the siting of 40-60 residences on the property.

**Seedling Sale Update :** Going back to old model. Schartner donating \$500 to cover costs of mailing. Need to put brochures in libraries, town halls, etc. Brochures will be ready tomorrow. Members can pick up or get at next meeting to distribute around their towns. Dick Donnelly is doing the raffle; can give items to him. Small and/or portable items are preferred, i.e., objects as well as services. Gift certificates are preferred. Kelly has offered a birthday party at the Norman Bird Sanctuary. Sale date is May 13, from 10:00-2:00 at East Farm.

**2006-2007 Annual Plan of Work:** The Board discussed the Annual Plan of Work and suggested some changes. Alicia will revise based on the Board's suggestions and reissue. Rudi moved and Harriet seconded to accept the 2006-2007 Plan of Work as modified by comments during the current meeting.

**SRICD Draft Budget (which see)** Alicia explained that figures are based on actual expenses from 2004-2005. Steve made a motion to accept and Harriet seconded.

**SRICD Committees**

**Finance Committee.** See Steve DelPozzo's Financial Report under **Cash Flow.**

**Environmental Review Team:** ERT committee members decided that Hopkinton would be a good proving ground for the ERT Team. Harvey is consulting with the Town and a Hopkinton project will be selected to do a shakedown of the ERT program.

**Marketing Committee:** Meeting again on March 20.

**Website Development** Alicia is working with interns, who are very technologically savvy, and predicts a good result.

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:18.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Harriet Powell, SRICD Board Secretary.