

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

Minutes of January 9, 2006

Present: Board Members: Pat Lenihan, Chair; Harriet Powell, Secretary; Member Rudi Hempe. Associate Members: Marjorie Weeden, Harvey Buford, Kelly Fox. Staff: Alicia Lehrer, District Manager; Kris Stuart, Patty Gambarini, Patty Tanalski, Susan Letendre. NRCS: Mike Kenyon.

Patricia Lenihan called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Agenda was amended to include discussion of the SRICD appointees to RC&D and the NK Saw Mill Pond project.

Minutes: The minutes of the November meeting were approved as presented. Rudi moved to accept and Harriet seconded. The minutes of the December meeting were approved as presented. Harriet moved to accept and Rudi seconded.

Financial Reports: Report goes out to October. Things lean between August and October. The new finance committee (Alicia, Steve, Harriet) is meeting later on this month, and will be trying to identify the reason for the insufficient funds during that period. New sources of income are the DOT-URI project under which SRICD will be a subcontractor, and the Rain Garden project in Narragansett. Finances go into negative territory in May. Don't receive as much money from Southern Rhode Island towns as we used to. Should try to have a representative at Town Council meetings to request donations if possible. The overall short fall, by Alicia's calculations, is around \$20,000. Cannot look to revised seedling sale to totally remedy, maximum from that event historically around \$8,000, and probably now would be closer to \$4,000, but we will probably have to return to our old seedling sale model even though much more labor involved. Many different ideas were suggested as fundraisers, including raffles of a variety of items, consulting Dick Donnelly, raffling off the tuition to a Master Gardner class, raffling off a small water garden, District fundraisers, selling backyard videos, doing a birthday party/ies at Norman Bird sanctuary and other similar suggestions on same theme. Pat suggested that we make up a list and possibly submit Seedling Sale Order Forms at Flower Show in February for distribution. All should submit fundraising ideas to Alicia. Financial report was moved for acceptance by Harriet and Rudi seconded.

Funding Opportunities: New WHIP grant and DOT-URI subcontracting discussed above.

Reports:

Conservationist Report: NRCS currently revising contracts as organization has fallen behind due to a personnel shortage. Mike currently doing two jobs.

Issue: the agreement between SRICD and NRCS (a copy of which was with the January 9 packet) and which has been signed by Roylene Rides At The Door. SRICD board reviewed and signed agreement. See more about agreement in “Other” section below.

RIACD: Last meeting reported on. Next meeting is occurring immediately following this one.

RC&D: Harriet. Rudi made a motion to formally appoint Kelly Fox as an alternate to RC&D. Harriet seconded. Harriet made a motion to formally remove Bryan Wolfenden as a SRICD-appointed member to RC&D. He has not attended a meeting since early last spring and it is assumed he is no longer interested in serving. Rudi seconded. Action to appoint a new representative to RC&D will occur after current members and associates of SRICD discuss and name a new prospective appointee to be elected to the RC&D Board.

RI Ag Council: Has not met since last report.

RIRDC: Will meet again in January.

RI State Committee: Alicia reported on the December 14, 2005 State Conservation meeting.

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

Other: **Agreement for Space and Services between the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District and the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (in your January 9 meeting packet).** Harriet made a motion to approve the agreement and Rudi seconded.

Program Updates: (Please see **SRICD Workload Accomplishment Plan** included in your January packet. Because of the RIACD meeting following this meeting, time for reports has been curtailed.

Growing a Future/Three Sisters: Susan. Working on moving forward, Meeting with elders of tribe and education person next week

Project Wet Susan. Check handout.

Duck Cove Monitoring Kris. Check handout.

Greenwich Bay Storm Water Kris. Check handout.

Stormwater Center, Phase II Implementation Narragansett: Alicia. Newsletter was passed around. SRICD work in Narragansett mentioned four times in the newsletter

DOT Phase II: Alicia. DOT given a contract. URI, DOT and DEM must all sign to go forward. URI has signed as well as DOT. Just waiting on DEM signature.

Stanton Avenue: Kris. Project must wait until the elevation is determined.

Discouraging Waterfowl: Patty.G. Quinn and golf course receptive to the idea of using dogs to discourage the geese. Suggestion of sterner measures were not received well at Bostitch.

Livestock Inventory: Alicia. In waiting mode due to necessary approvals from DEM Division of Agriculture on the letter and survey to go out to producers. NRCS and other groups interested in project. We can call towns and see if any are interested in assisting with this project

NK Saw Mill Pond Project: Patty G. The report has been given to the Town of North Kingstown and they will consider what the next steps might be.

Farm Bill Work for NRCS: Kris. Check worksheet.

Seedling Sale Update: (see discussion above under Financial Reports) If going back to old model, will need volunteers. Date of Seedling Sale is May 13th, so would need work parties two days before to get ready. Rudi will do pre-event press when flyers go out. Susan had a fundraising idea concerning selling spring bulbs and receiving part of the purchase price from a professional fundraising organization. Not for the seedling sale.

SRICD Committees

Finance Committee: Steve and Harriet. Meeting scheduled for Jan 19, 2006.

Environmental Review Team: Meeting of ERT subcommittee scheduled for Jan 26, 2006. Members, Rudi, Harriet, Clark and Harvey.

Marketing Committee: Harriet and Rudi, was scheduled for 3:00pm on Feb 16, 2006 but rescheduled for 3:00pm on Feb. 15, at Harriet's request.

Scrapbook items submitted by Marjorie Weeden and Kelly Fox.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted, Harriet Powell, SRICD Board Secretary.