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**Southern Rhode Island Conservation District**

10 High Street, Suite I-8 - Wakefield, RI 02879 - Phone (401) 284-1885 - Fax (401) 284-1889 - <http://sricd.org>

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

**Minutes of March 12, 2007**

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

**Meeting was called to order by Rudi Hempe at 6:07pm.**

**Minutes from February 12:** The minutes were approved. Steve made the motion and Harriet seconded.

**Financial Reports:** Cash Flow Report. Alicia reported that the District had done a lot of billing and funding requests since the last meeting. NRCS' proposed CIG grants for Districts is on fast track, and should provide a quick \$10,000 by the end of December.

**Funding Opportunities:**

- SRICD will apply to USDA RI Rural Development for a grant to develop a business plan for Waste Vegetable Oil project. This is the same funding source RC&D used for Rhody Warm.
- Citizen's Bank Champions in Action Grant. Norman Bird Sanctuary won one last year. 3 Districts applying together under RIACD this year.
- Susan working on marketing plan to present surface and groundwater education programs in schools, i.e., how to keep water clean, etc. Will dovetail with public outreach, and public education under RIPDES for Narragansett.
- Recap of information in previous minutes re: \$531,400 National CIG Grant. This grant application represents a huge proposal. I.e., a \$531,400 grant pilot program to demonstrate the practicality of using waste vegetable oil to heat greenhouses and run tractors and other farm machinery. Five farmers have signed on to participate in program if grant comes through. These farmers include Skip Paul of Wishing Stone farm, Mike Hutchins of Casey Farm, Ron Mucci, Alice Strebel, Mike Minto and Erik Eacker of Ledge Ends Produce. Waste vegetable oil will be used to heat greenhouses. The Southern District would be partnering with Tom Sandham from Eastern. The two districts would be working with Steve Adler who has developed several systems to use of waste vegetable oil as a substitute for oil. Part of goal of grant would be to build a central facility where farmers could go to get this type of fuel rather than finding a source themselves; Checked

with DEM re: any permits required. None required, not considered hazardous. Will hear in June. Will be applying to RI Foundation for match.

### **Reports:**

**Conservationist Report.** Mike Kenyon (see RI NRCS Conservationist Report accompanying these minutes). Mike mentioned wildlife monitoring of Indian Land in Charlestown and other projects that NRCS are involved in Vicky Drew replaced by Mike Moorman. NRCS still has no budget, but some money freezes have been lifted. A soils person has been advertised for, and a part-time biologist is leaving. Have entered into an agreement with Massachusetts NRCS to use an engineer and soil conservationist to help with nutrient management. Eric Boettger ranked all applications.

**RIACD.** No meeting since Roylene proposed Districts doing CIG grants for NRCS in January.

**RDC.** Gerry Bertrand, Exec. Dir of RDC received \$1,000 from Wal-Mart plus other funds sufficient to provide grant writing assistance for an Allen-Madison master preservation plan.

**State Committee.** Alicia Lehrer and Tom Sandham worked with Mike Moorman on proposal for RI Districts to run RI CIG grant program on behalf of NRCS. Issue of appointing new members to State Committee, Alicia said she would ask Pat to consult Mike. Also a letter was proposed to be sent to Governor's office from the Committee which Wendy would write and Eric would sign. Next State Committee meeting is April 11.

**RI AG Council.** Marjorie delivered SRICD packet to Ag Council.

**RC& D.** Harriet passed out copies of the RC&D 2006 Annual Report. RC&D voted to hold meeting every other month. Next meeting will be May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Plans for October Conference are progressing. Rhody Warm publicity helping to sell all available blankets with orders already coming in for next year's blankets.

**State Technical Committee.** Tour of habitat improvement sites planned.

### **Program Updates:**

- Growing a Future/Three Sisters – Project Complete!
- Phase II Narragansett – delivered final report to Narragansett and plan to meet with Town to discuss 2007
- DOT Phase II – Met with Lorraine Joubert re workshops. Kris working on developing workshops.
- Livestock Inventory –Alicia announced that Kathryn will be leaving and Clare was taking over where she left off. Pat inquired about how the reporting on the inventory would be done. Alicia confirmed that it would be by subwatershed and that the Saugatucket was done and Queens was almost done. Pat requested that copy of summary of Saugatucket and possibly Queens be handed out at next board meeting.

**Final SRICD 2006-2007 Business Plan** (accompanying these minutes).

**Committees:**

**Marketing**

- **Art Fundraiser** – Harriet will be attending Farmways meeting. Plans for next month, Art Fundraiser meeting, having Rudi send out press release, writing to artists and art groups, reserving Peacedale Guild gym and adjoining room, contacting farmers, land trusts and municipalities (West Greenwich) Have discussion re: judges, with SRICD committee at next meeting.
- **Website** – Alicia Website is progressing
- **Logo Development** – Alicia’s friend, graphic designer Layne Mayer, agreed to develop SRICD logo for \$300

**Open House – April 12:** Jenna Hesser, trained by Al Gore will give presentation at from 3:00pm to 6:00pm, with potluck snacks by board members.

**Seedling Sale – May 12:** Volunteers should come on Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 to Building 63 behind the field house to work on unloading plants, etc. Also be at East Farm at 9:00 am on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Next SRICD Board Meeting:** Pat asked if it was possible to change the date of the SRICD meeting as she has a new work conflict on the second Monday. It was decided that the next meeting would be April 23, and be the third Monday of the month thereafter.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm**

**Respectfully submitted: Harriet Powell, SRICD Board Secretary**