



Southern Rhode Island Conservation District

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

Minutes of April 23, 2007

Present: Board Members: Pat Lenihan, Chair; Harriet Powell, Secretary; Steve DelPozzo, Treasurer; Members: Rudi Hempe, Clarkson Collins. Associate Members: Marjorie Weeden, Paul Boisvert, and Kelly Fox. Staff: Alicia Lehrer, District Manager, Kris Stuart, Patty Tanalski. NRCS: Mike Kenyon. RIACD: Jean Lynch.

Meeting was called to order by Pat Lenihan at 5:55pm.

Minutes from March 12: The minutes were approved as corrected regarding Eric Boettger ranking all the applications (see under Reports). Clark made the motion and Steve seconded.

Financial Reports: (see financial report accompanying these minutes). Cash Flow. Alicia reported that she had met with Mitch, and that the budget was now in its new format. First four months are actual, last eight months are forward looking. Page 1 is past performance, so figures are actual. Page 2 is projected. That includes part of April and all of May. Alicia reported that the District's best estimate is that things look good given all the work that it has planned. Alicia said she is again gainfully employed. As far as profitability, will take a couple of months to record progress as based on cash on hand. Currently there is about \$13,000 in bank. Harriet made a motion to approve the Financial Report and Rudi seconded, all approved.

Funding Opportunities: SRICD plans to apply to Rural Development (Dave DeLisle) in regard to business feasibility for waste vegetable oil project through RC&D. RC&D was suggested as a better fit, and Alicia talked to Chris Modisette, Coordinator of RIRC&D and Alicia will present the idea at the next RC&D meeting. Mitch of Blue Wave would like help with financial feasibility figures that show the cost to farmers for fuel to demonstrate that waste vegetable oil would be a better option than diesel. A discussion followed on the continued availability of waste vegetable oil. Alicia said that at present and in the foreseeable future, plenty of available waste vegetable oil with producers begging to pay an entity to take off their hands. Also, FarmFresh looking to create a central facility for farmers to bring produce, and could use for them to pickup waste vegetable oil supply. Waste vegetable oil is not considered a hazardous waste.

The three districts are applying together for the Citizen's Community Champions Grant Award. Norman Bird Sanctuary received last year. NRCS is going to go ahead with the state CIG grants that all three districts agreed to administer in return for approximately \$60,000 over three years. Purpose of grants is to come up with innovative ideas for farmers to conserve soil, water and energy in RI. The districts are in the process of developing ranking criteria and forming a review committee. Decisions on the state program will be made by June 1st.

Reports:

Conservationist Report – Mike Kenyon (See RI NRCS Conservationist Report as well as the Mike's March Update accompanying these minutes). Purpose of asking Districts to take over this CIG grants is to assist NRCS in a program for which the staff could not otherwise allocate adequate time. If districts do a good job, the contracts can be extended. Mike explained how the money would come from NRCS over a three-year period and added that if more funds became available, they could be added to continue the program over future years. NRCS is also developing an agreement with all districts for use as satellite offices to make up for new directive that no longer allows NRCS to pay for Internet access, etc., for districts. Mike also discussed other aspects of NRCS programs

RIACD – Jean Lynch, Sec/Treas of the RIACD asked members of the SRICD who are also on the Board of RIACD to approve the Conflict of Interest Clause 990s for RIACD which she had emailed to those members (Pat, Harriet, Rudi). She said she would reemail and members agreed to respond. Jean also mentioned the fundraiser being held by the Northern District on May 18. Jean is Chair of the NRICD board.

RC&D – (Please see copy of RIRCD eNotes accompanying these minutes). Harriet showed the Board the new email newsletter put together by Chris Modisette. Board members would like copies emailed to them in order to keep up with RC&D's numerous activities. The newsletter includes as topics, Council News which includes all current RC&D projects, NRCS news, Upcoming Events and Inside the RC&D Council.

RDC – The next meeting of RIRDC is April 27.

State Committee – Still no new appointees to State Committee. Eric asked Alicia to ask Pat to ask Mike what the District's next step should be. It has been about three years the State Committee has been without sufficient members to man the (Farm, Forest, and Open Space) FFOS Committee that meets to recommend land values for FFOS.

RI Ag. Council – Marjorie submitted her report on the most recent Ag Council meeting which accompanies these minutes.

State Technical Team – (Steve DelPozzo submitted a written report of the most recent meeting which accompanies these minutes). Paul commented on the pollution generated by outdoor boilers and that users should have to be trained.

Other

- Kris Stuart mentioned the RI Land and Water Conservation Summit, which was held on March 31.
- Approximately 20 people attended the SRICD open house on April 12.
- Rudi brought up new quarters, saying that Bald Hill Nursery idea would probably not be a site that could be relied on. All members were requested to keep their eyes open for a possible site in SK, NK or Narragansett. Other possible sites, i.e., URI, Peckham Farm, an empty church. Alicia suggested that Champlin might give a grant to help the relocation.

Program Updates:

Narrow River Phase II – Proposal made to Jeff Ceasarine, now Town Manager of Narragansett is for \$45,000/yr to assist the Town in implementing its Phase II program including monitoring outfalls, developing outreach to Narragansett schools, developing a newsletter and much more. The proposal will go to Narr. Town Council on May 7. Can start ahead of time. Dry weather outfall monitoring needs to be done by April 30. May not occur due to wet weather.

RI Foundation Grant Proposal – SRICD is applying for match for national CIG grant in the amount of \$125,000. Alicia met with environmental person at RI Foundation to discuss and to show the draft of the proposal. Individual was supportive and suggested that we develop the proposal to cover two scenarios, one that would match the CIG grant if awarded and one that would stand on its own if CIG is not awarded. May 1st is deadline to submit. Decision will be Dec. 31st.

Project Funds Awarded

- Narragansett Bay Watershed Restoration Funds (NBWRF)/319 Funds awarded to the Town of Narragansett for the following:
 - ⇒ For SRICD to do a Crooked Brook feasibility study and BMP design to improve water quality for \$65,000. Crooked Brook runs through Narragansett and drains to the Narrow River.
 - ⇒ \$1,110,975 mostly for Narrow River including construction of BMPs at Pettaquamscutt and Edgewater Terrace – 4 in all for stormwater pollution abatement. There may be funding in this package for SRICD to do a feasibility study of the Indian Trail catchment along the Narrow River. As all funds requested for this project were not awarded, Jeff C has to decide whether the Town can make up the difference in the budget, do only a portion of the project or haggle over prices with the subcontractors.
- NBWRF awarded to Stanley Bostich \$122,125 to make landscape modifications to exclude geese including pond removal and tree planting. SRICD will receive approximately \$15,000 of those funds to oversee landscape design.
- The Town of North Kingstown (NK) has developed a purchase order with SRICD to educate residents in the Wickford Point community to reduce water consumption to improve lawn health and environmental health for \$2,500.

Steve asked about potential income from proposals. Alicia broke down possible income by projects and noted that new staff would need to be added if all funds were to come through.

Committees

Art Show – Members Paul Boisvert, Clark Collins, Harriet Powell, Susan Letendre. Harriet discussed farm applications (6) and artist’s interest. Important to get high-profile individuals involved. Clark agreed to ask Mimi Sammas to participate. Need venue and specific date in order to proceed. Mike Sullivan, Peter Lord, Mike Lenihan and others were mentioned as possibilities for presenting awards at the show.

Website – Dick Perreault’s class has done a wonderful job on the SRICD website. Going to show work on website on May 4th and anyone that can get to RIC should go. Time and place: 9:00 am at Alger Hall.

Logo – All staff and board asked to pick favorite. Alicia has shown suggested logos to Dick Rosa of ESC and he likes just the letters best.

Seedling Sale: May 12. Volunteers should come on Thursday the 10th at 9:00 to Building 63 behind the field house to work on unloading plants, etc. Also be at East Farm at 8:30 am on the 12th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm

Respectfully submitted: Harriet Powell, SRICD Board Secretary.