



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

Minutes of July 16, 2007

Present: Board Members: Pat Lenihan, Chair; Rudi Hempe, Vice Chair; Harriet Powell, Secretary; Steve DelPozzo, Treasurer; Clark Collins. Associate Directors: Marjorie Weeden. Staff: Alicia Lehrer, District Manager; Kris Stuart, Susan Letendre, Heather Place.

Meeting was called to order by Pat Lenihan at 6:10pm.

Minutes from June 18th, 2007: The minutes were approved. Clark made the motion and Rudi seconded.

Financial Reports: Cash Flow Reports. (Please see copy of SRICD Profit and Loss Statement accompanying these minutes.)

Alicia commented that the financial report did not look that bad but that her projections may have been too high. Alicia informed the Committee that thus far there was no grant from Rhode Island Foundation or for the used vegetable oil proposal. Alicia added that Mitch Turner had accepted a job that prevented him from participating in the project and that she had to follow through with her submission to RC&D when she had the opportunity. Some news on other grants: Narragansett Bay watershed, Stanley Bostitch and Town of Narragansett. Alicia said Narragansett struggling to come up with match for grants. Bostitch, apparently there are snags, and 2008 funding cannot start until decision is made on whether concrete-lined fire pond is or is not a wetland and whether a variance can be granted. The meeting where decision will be made to give a variance for fire pond is Aug 8th. Cooperative Extension owes District about \$4000 but District will have to wait until the Extension's budget is approved by DEM.

Because of the reduction in the State appropriation for RI Districts, Alicia is going to ask the State Committee to allow the Districts to keep the appropriation money which had been earmarked by the State Committee to be used for a permanent home for the Districts. The money the Southern District makes from the Town of Narragansett is steady, but insufficient to support the whole organization. The other two Districts' are also feeling the pinch because of the lowered appropriation. Al Bettencourt approached Alicia about possibly having the Southern District move into the Farm Bureau's new home on Route 2 in North Kingstown. Alicia indicated interest

NACD proposal to EPA. Alicia's proposal met with approval at NACD, i.e. to locate and identify all farms large and small in RI. If comes to fruition, it will be profitable for the Districts, although not a lot of dollars. However it puts Districts in a position to leverage actions and encourage nutrient management and other programs which will bring in funds. Alicia concluded by saying no one would have to be laid off during the 2007 summer. The Financial Report was approved. Harriet made the motion and Clark seconded.

Reports:

NRCS: The Conservationist Report was passed out to members. Susan commented that Meadowbrook farm was looking for a new owner.

RIACD: Ted Comerford, President of RIACD, is in the hospital. There have been no meetings since the last report. The regional meeting of the NACD is in August in Mystic, Connecticut. Alicia updated the SRICD members on her proposal.

RC&D: Rhody Warm collected 1900 lbs of wool, up 400 pounds over last year. RC&D Conference Plans continuing. Save the dates, Oct 18-20 at the Villager Inn in Narragansett. Next meeting, Sept 12.

RI Rural Development Council: Next meeting, July 27. Planning us underway for the Forestry and Wood Expo which will be held in conjunction with the Governor's Office on Energy on October 14 from 10 to 5:00pm at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick

State Ag Council: No meeting until October

RI State Conservation Committee: Next meeting is August 15th. As Wendy has left, Patty Tanalski will be doing the minutes for the next State Committee meeting. Committee considering paying Chip Young to develop and implement a marketing approach for RI Districts if Alicia can convince RI Foundation to give mini grant to cause.

RI State Technical Team: Steve reported his frustration with stupid regulations that over compensate for rule infraction. Steve complained that there seemed to be no concept about running out of resources, and suggested that a new paradigm is needed to address cleaning up rampant pollution.

Other Meetings, etc.: Clark mentioned the South County Garden Club meeting he had attended at the Dunes Club and said the speaker was interesting.

Heather Place mentioned that Rep. Langevin was at the South Side Community Land Trust get-together in Cranston. She said Langevin was mainly concerned about hunger and putting dollars in farmer's pockets to help address it. Rudi said that all interested parties and organizations have to get together and that way they would have more clout. There are farming issues from Maryland through the Maritimes, and New England legislatures should address fairness for every region.

Program Updates (as time permits) (Please see handouts of Staff workload and accomplishments).

Phase II Implementation Narragansett: Alicia & Kris. Did outreach to all Land Trusts, Watershed Associations, US Fish & Wildlife, EPA, CRMC, Narragansett Bay Campus, etc., letting all know re: Phase II plan, all efforts of these partners will count toward second year of Phase II effort, Alicia also did the dry weather testing at end of May near Point Judith—fairly clean, although she reported that Great Island was not clean. She discussed making a presentation to Great Island folks about cess pools and other topics relating to water quality. She mentioned using Salt Pond kayak trip to underscore the clean up of Pt. Judith Pond. Harbor Island area was also mentioned.

DOT Phase II: Kris. Nothing will be delivered until district gets paid. Doing modules at present.

Livestock Inventory in Saugatucket and Pawcatuck Watersheds: Alicia. Going well.

NRCS RI CIG program - Alicia –The second round of selections underway. \$176,000 to award. Committee consists of two Mikes, Mark Tremblay, Gina, Gene Pepper, Alicia and Tom Sandham.

NK Water Conservation Workshop for Wickford Point: Alicia. Group gathered to help with the workshop estimated workshop had extremely bad timing as only one resident attended the meeting. There were two other Town meetings of great interest that evening. Alicia planning to work with Town Water Department on employing and documenting alternative methods to control sprinkler systems at Wickford Point.

Duck Cove Monitoring: Still working on the glitch mentioned last month as far as getting paid is concerned.

Committees: Marketing (Clark, Harriet, Rudi, Paul Boisvert, Alicia, Susan)

Art and the Natural World Show. Harriet will set up a meeting before our next one on Sept. 17th and make a report at that time. There are about 30+ artists, 8 farms and many special places.

Events-Annual Dinner Discussion: Alicia reported that because we had asked the Exeter Grange to use local food, we have been asked not to return. Alicia is working with Johnson and Wales to use the Radisson so that our Annual Dinner will use local food. Awards that need proposed awardees: Cooperators, municipalities; legislators, farmers; teachers, other. Rudi agreed to send out a press release to that effect. Suggested for awards: Teachers, Dan Potts from Chariho and Peter Stetson from Coventry, the Town of North Kingstown if their water ordinance goes through. Hall of Fame framers from Ag Day should be considered.

Seedling Sale NRICD's total profit was \$3600. We still don't know what ours was. Rudi suggested that the SRICD website include a survey of plants customers would like to see offered. He also suggested that order forms be posted on the website in January, as that is when gardeners do their planning. A possibility that buyers could pick up earlier than Seedling Sale event was also discussed, as were changes that might occur to the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm

Next meeting is September 17.

Respectfully submitted,
Harriet Powell, SRICD Board Secretary