

# **Southern Rhode Island Conservation District**

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

**Master Gardner's Field House, East Farm, Kingston, RI**

**March 1, 2010**

**Present: Directors Clarkson Collins, Harriett Powell, Harvey Buford, Carl Sawyer; District Manager Doug McGovern; John Richard, NRCS; Ramona LeBlanc, RI State Conservation Committee.**

**I. Chairman Clarkson Collins called the meeting to order at 4:20.**

**A motion was made for Ramona to assume role of secretary and to take meeting minutes, effective with this meeting: Harriet/Clark, unanimous.**

### **II. Minutes**

**A motion was made to accept the January 25, 2010 minutes as presented: Harriet/Clark: unanimous.**

### **III. Treasurer's Report**

**In lieu of a formal report, the most recent bank statement was presented and transactions since the last Board meeting were discussed.**

**A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report: Harriet/Carl: unanimous.**

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **A. Consolidation Progress**

**Records previously housed at ERICD have been transferred to the SCC office in Greenville. The Quick Books files will be transferred to Ramona's computer in Greenville as well.**

**The payroll account has been reactivated. A separate phone line for SRICD will be installed at the Greenville office with its own voice mail box.**

##### **B. Board Elections/Appointments**

**Harriet and Harvey submitted nomination papers with twenty five signatures which will be presented at the next SCC meeting. Three directors will be appointed by the SCC and the remaining two seats will be filled by election at a date to be determined.**

##### **C. Work Opportunities**

**1. CIG: Doug will be trained to conduct CIG workshops. There will be 4 workshops conducted statewide which will be promoted through a postcard mailing based on each Districts lists of contacts and press releases.**

**2. Agriculture Grant:** A meeting was held at URI to discuss a USDA grant that would target beginning farmers. It would have several components including an incubator farm with University curriculum, a land link and an equipment bank. The grant was not funded when submitted last year, but by partnering with other organizations and joining with nearby states to take a regional approach the URI led group organizing the grant is optimistic for funding in this round of applications. The next step is to submit a written proposal. The Ag Partnership may be a source of in kind funding for a GIS inventory of available agricultural land for the land link.

**3. CCPI/NRCS:** John distributed copies of the RFP for this program. Funding is available for partners to assist with certain facets of NRCS programs. Finding new applicants and guiding them through the application process is one area the Districts could assist and possibly running certain contracts and working with TSP's to implement is another. John will check on how payment would be structured and on RFP deadline.

**4. NOAA Dam Contract:** An existing fish ladder at the Village at Indian Lake (VAIL) has begun to erode. Some funding is available from NOAA but not enough to complete repairs. NRCS has WHIP money available but cannot contract with NOAA. The VAIL Association does not want to be named on the contract. Clark will discuss with Dick Went to see if RIACD could hold the contract. Signature on contract is needed by the end of March.

Gilbert Stuart Museum may have similar need. The question was raised: can SRICD hold the service contract for WHIP agreement to

**install a fish blockage at the museum?**

**D. Business Plan Update: A meeting to address this issue was scheduled for March 25.**

## **V. New Business**

**1. State Committee Appointment: A motion was made to nominate Clark for the Governor's approval to a seat on the SCC: Harriet/Harvey, unanimous. Harriet will continue to serve until a replacement is appointed.**

**2. Employee Bonding: A motion was made to decline recommendation of insurance agent to purchase an employee dishonesty bonding policy: Harriet/Harvey: unanimous.**

**3. Contract for File Review: A motion was made to pay Kris Stuart \$1000 to review and clean up SRICD's files: Harriet/Harvey: unanimous.**

**4. NRCS: John distributed reports/updates on current projects. 38 applications for hoop houses have been received to date (10 in SRICD). Organic initiative deadline has been postponed until April 2. John will continue work on the VAIL fish ladder via email since the next Board meeting is scheduled for March 29. A motion was made to authorized Clark and Doug to further develop the VAIL fish ladder plan: Harriet/Harvey, unanimous.**

**5. NRICD will work with RC &D to meet request of North Kingstown schools to present a series of presentations dealing with water protection/conservation.**

**6. There is a possible role for the Districts in the development of management plans for conservation lands in subdivisions. Town planners seem eager for assistance.**

**7. Website hosting company will be forwarding an invoice for services. Account is currently in arrears as invoice was being sent via email to an old email address.**

**Items presented at meeting to be filed with minutes: January 25, 2010 minutes, NRCS RFP for CCPI, NRCS updates report, NRCS Conservationist report, and bank statement.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:40.**