

Southern Rhode Island Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting

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

June 25, 2012

I. Chair Clarkson Collins called meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

Present: Chair: Clarkson Collins; Directors: Harriet Powell, Rudi Hempe, Harvey Buford, J. Eric Scherer, Jo-Anne Pacheco; SRICD; John Richard, NRCS; Ramona LeBlanc, Jill Osgood, SCC.

II. Minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes of the 4/23/12 meeting (no meeting in May): Rudi/Harriet; unanimous.

III. Reports

A. Treasurer's Report:

1. A check was received from the person who closed the Savings account and was deposited into the Operating account.

2. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as submitted with the exception of the Bank Reconciliations for April & May. The April ending statement balance did not match the May starting balance. Jill assured the board that the discrepancy is due to the A/R & A/P clean-up done during May. She will review her work and report to the board via e-mail with her findings.

B. Chair: Clarkson Collins: The Southern District has one signed contract with the RI Natural History Survey. It is scheduled to begin September 2012 and end March 2013 with a presentation. Clark is working on another contract that is moving slowly due to complications with the other entity.

C. District Manager: J. Eric Scherer: Eric attended 2 conservation meetings and 1 team meeting. He is also working on a signs project and a strategic plan.

IV. NRCS: John Richard submitted a written report. 5 WHIP contracts have been approved in the Southern Districts totaling \$139,515. NRCS clear cut and re-seeded (thicket habitat) 12 and 36 acre properties for cottonwood winter survival. 61 EQIP contracts have been approved and obligated equaling \$1,137,907. Animal infrastructure work is on the increase and there are many forestry applications. 2 CSP contracts have been approved and obligated equaling \$6,983. NRCS has requested additional money to fund remaining contracts.

V. SCC: Ramona:

A. The Outreach Workshops are complete except for Watson Farm tour scheduled for July 18th.

B. Matt Deane is working on the Rivers project doing fieldwork on tributaries.

C. The Geese project is done for the season. Jessica is focusing her energies on creating marketing materials for the districts.

D. Kate continues to work on Ag Inventory. Currently she is concentrating on East Bay. Warwick is the only Ag Inventory area in the Southern District.

E. Ramona continues to work on the Fee for Service project.

VI. Old Business:

A. Staffing Plan: Eric continues to work on the staffing plan for the Southern District. It will follow a strategic/business plan format that will include goals, objectives, beginning and ending dates, etc. The plan is designed to help the board move toward objectives and make the district more visible to clients. It will be more comprehensive by the next meeting.

B. Eric presented drafts of the MOU between the RI State Conservation Committee and the Southern District, and Supporting Documents that outline general laws, working relationships, administrative duties, organization, personnel, financial duties, various roles, responsibilities and policies, etc. Please send any comments, concerns or suggestions to Eric by July 10th.

C. Eric is working on biographies, resumes, services, etc. for the website so the public can stay informed about credentials, experience and backgrounds for voting purposes. Eric asked the board to offer suggestions concerning format, content, budgets, accounting, administration, etc.

VII. New Business: 2012-2013 Budget: Ramona presented the board with the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Proposed budget. A motion was made to accept the budget, as submitted, as a draft/working budget. Harriet/Harvey; unanimous.

VIII. Other: The next meeting is scheduled for July 23rd at 4:00 pm. Future meetings will be scheduled for the 4th Monday of the month; the website will be updated to reflect this change.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.