

I. Chair Clarkson Collins called meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

Present: Chair: Clarkson Collins; Directors: J. Eric Scherer, Harriet Powell, Rudi Hempe, Harvey Buford, Carl Sawyer, Jo-Anne Pacheco, Matt Deane; SRICD; John Richard, NRCS; Jill Osgood, RISSC.

II. Minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes of the 6/25/12 meeting. Harriet/Rudi; unanimous.

III. Reports

A. Treasurer's Report: A motion was made to accept the financial reports as presented. Rudi/Harriet; unanimous.

B. Chair: Clarkson Collins: The tentative contract with the Town of Narragansett is moving forward and Clark anticipates the contract will be signed shortly.

C. District Manager: J. Eric Scherer:

1. Eric is working on the Hopkinton Land Trust. They will let Eric know when they are ready for a presentation.

2. The Southern District's Business Plan and Project Plans are on-going.

3. Jo-Anne Pacheco and Jill Stevenson from Mouseworks have been very active in getting the website up and running. Jo-Anne would like to add directions to the district's office, photos of East Farm, and a printable calendar of events that will include hotlinks to websites of affiliated organizations. Please send any photos or information you would like included on the website to Jo-Anne Pacheco or Jill Stevenson.

4. Matt Deane has completed the Waterways fieldwork. He is now compiling the collected information and photos to submit to DEM

who will determine which rivers need further research and/or improvement.

5. Matt is looking into acquiring work from the Co-op Extension and NEMO program on the Sedimentary Control Handbook. It may develop into Fee for Service items for Towns as 3rd Party review/verification of manuals, site inspections, and Storm Water B&P's, maintenance, etc. which may lead to future jobs for the district.

IV. NRCS:

A. John Richard will give a WHIP funds update at the August meeting.

The WHIP contracts can be obligated in mid-August. There is more interest in the Cottontail project than anticipated. The "Working Lands for Wildlife" section of the Farm Bill should expand the WHIP program to other species, possibly Brook Trout.

B. John is working on the Fish & Wildlife and Safe Harbors agreements with DEM.

C. NRCS is waiting to hear if they will receive the requested additional funding for EQIP.

D. NRCS hired a Soil Conservationist to begin employment at the end of August and a GS12 Engineer. They are in the process of hiring a GS11 Engineer.

E. The number of people contacted for the Ag Inventory program is being compiled. Ramona will include in her report when the results are complete.

V. SCC: Ramona was not in attendance and submitted a written report:

A. Ramona continues to work on the Resource Library Document that will include a list of services each district may offer. It will also include staff biographies, experience and education. The document can be used as a marketing tool to obtain work/contracts.

B. Ramona met with Phou from NRCS about possible contract renewals. The Engineering and Outreach Agreements will almost certainly be renewed in early and late of September, respectively. The Outreach Agreement may be split into separate contracts: the statewide Outreach segment may stay with the State Committee and Ag Tech services with the districts. The contracts would provide higher indirect income for both the districts and the State Committee thereby decreasing each districts overhead contribution. More details will follow and a vote of participation will take place during the August or September meeting.

VI. Old Business:

A. Staffing Plan: Eric submitted 3 reports outlining the skills of the Southern District's personnel. The information is incomplete and Eric asked the board to provide additional information so the report will be comprehensive by the July 24th RISCC meeting.

B. Southern District/State Committee MOU: Eric presented updated drafts of the MOU and "Responsibilities & Policies" documents. Harriet Powell's comments and suggestions need to be included. Clark will present the reports at the State Committee meeting on July 24th. The Southern District desires to have a level of independence from the State Committee and will discuss the option of board meeting Minutes processed internally. Jill Osgood will continue to

provide financial and other administrative support to the district.

C. Funding for Jo-Anne's project will end on September 30th. The Southern District will ask RISCC to apply for RC&D grants and Rural Energy for America projects that focus on Rural Business Development, specifically renewable energy and efficiency such as geothermal, solar, EV, wood furnaces, etc. Jo-Anne has expertise in the energy field and can aid farmers in the difficult application process. A motion was made to present this to the State Committee. Harriet/Clark; unanimous.

D. 2012-2013 FY Budget: Jill Osgood was asked to investigate the budget and financial information for unallocated funds that the Southern District is free to use as they see fit.

VII. New Business:

A. Land Trust Signage: The Southern District has not received monies from the \$4,000 contract for the trail signage template project.

B. Harriet and Clark are on the planning committee for the Annual Dinner which is scheduled for October.

VIII. Other: The next meeting is scheduled for August 27th at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.