

**Southern Rhode Island Conservation District**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

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

**April 22, 2013**

**I. The meeting was called to order at 4:13 pm.**

**Present: SRICD: Chair: Clarkson Collins; District Manager: J.Eric Scherer; Directors: Harriet Powell, Rudi Hempe, Harvey Buford; NRCS: Stewart Taffe; RISCC: Debra Aiello, Ramona LeBlanc, Jill Osgood.**

**II. Minutes: A motion was made to accept the February 25th meeting minutes as presented. Rudi/Harvey; motion passed.**

**III. Reports:**

**A. Treasurer's Report: A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Harriet/Rudi; motion passed. The Board decided to set a date to create a budget for next year. Harvey suggested creating a sub-committee. A meeting is scheduled for April 29th, 3:00 at NRCS,**

**B. Chair's Report:**

**C. District Manager's Report:**

**1. Outreach-SRICD conducted an Outreach Open House for NRCS**

programs on April 9th. Staff plans to attend the Spring Festival on May 11th at East Farm at URI along with NRCS and has invited the RI Bee Keepers Association to join them.

2. Administrative- Staff is continuing to work with the SCC on fee for service efforts of the conservation districts. A new brochure is being developed by SCC staff with input from district staff and directors. The Executive Director plans to work on a draft brochure/fact sheet for the GIS mapping service.

Web Page- The web page is being connected to a home page. The page will continue to be updated with news, postings and events as they come.

Office Space- RILTC has moved into the lab across the hall from the office. The Board is waiting on the draft architectural/engineering proposal for the Land Stewardship Center at East Farm Campus.

3. Special Projects- The Board and staff are scheduled to meet with the SCC on April 29th to work with Ken Payne of the Ag Partnership on the draft update to the SCC, CDs, MOU and Policy.

The SRICD Board and staff attended the second facilitated meeting on storm water management sponsored by the coastal Institute on storm water needs in RI.

SRICD has attended several meetings with the RI Water Resources Board, DEM and NRCS on a water conservation project.

4. The Land Trust Signage Project- The SRICD Board and staff made the official presentation of the Guidelines to the public at the 2013 Land and Water Summit in March and is currently working on edits for an executive summary

**5. The Town of Hopkinton Conservation Commission GIS project-The GIS project is making progress with Harvey and staff working on the physical mapping with the new GPS.**

**6. SRICD staff continues to provide support for the development and update of the 1989 RI Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook. They encourage uniformity of ordinances in the handbook. It will go out for review this summer. RIDOT Outreach Training programs will be helpful throughout the years.**

**7. District Manager suggested developing a brochure for Open Space Mapping plan to go out to towns to spread the word. Harriet suggested a more active program to service the people who are not aware of the program.**

#### **V. NRCS:**

**A. Programs – Round 2 EQIP= 38 contracts Third FY 13 Ranking Round slid back to May 17th due to technical issues.**

**B. NRCS hired a new Assistant State Conservationist for Programs starting in mid May.**

**C. An Outreach meeting is scheduled for June 17th at East Farm building 75.**

#### **IV. RI SCC:**

**A. Outreach- Spring Festival is scheduled for May 11th at East Farm URI.**

**B. A meeting is scheduled for May 8th as to the FFOS program.**

**C. The fee for service flyer should be finalized by the next State Committee Meeting.**

**D. A group interaction meeting for all districts is being planned for late August or early September.**

**V. Old Business:**

**A. Board Elections-** the Board is waiting for signatures to complete the re-election process. The Board asked Deb to send out a press release to the local newspapers announcing Director and Associate director's openings.

**B. Hopkinton Land Trust Project (See District Manager Report)**

**C. CSC Signage Project (See District Manager Report)**

**D. Goose Abatement Effort- Tabled**

**E. Environmental Education-** Board members will be asked to judge at the Spring Fest on May 11th

**F. Strategic Plan- Tabled**

**G. RI Soil and Erosion Sediment Handbook(See District Manager Report)**

**VI. New Business:**

**A. Director Handbook discussion-** Draft was passed out, waiting for Board input to complete.

**B. The Board is looking for ideas to keep up with the website E news alerts and to build an Email database; posting events and keeping up with the news.**

**VII. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm Harriett/ Harvey.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2013 at 4:00pm.**