



SRICD Minutes

East Farm

4:00 to 6:00 pm, September 22, 2014

Present: Clark Collins, Chair; Rudi Hempe, Vice-Chair; Harvey Buford, Treasurer; Harriet Powell, Secretary; Carl Sawyer, Board Member; Eric Scherer and Peter Stetson, Associate Members; Stew Taffe, NRCS; Kate Bousquet, District Manager; Rick Pace, volunteer, Jean Lynch, guest from RIACD.

Clark brought the meeting to order at 4:04pm

Approval of Minutes from August meeting by Kate Bousquet: Rudi, Harvey, unanimous.

Clark introduced Jean Lynch, long-time member of Northern District as well as the RIACD, to bring Southern up-to-date on the National Association of Conservation District meeting in August in Newport, RI and on the up-coming Annual Meeting of the RIACD. Jean reported that the National Association meeting figures have not be finalized. It is expected that the total taken in will not meet the expected amount as many attendees only stayed over one night. Finalized figures will be shared when complete. Jean urged members of Southern to please attend the upcoming Annual Meeting which is being held at NRCS on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm, saying that the group is looking for more active members. Jean also discussed dues. Looking for \$275/district, but asked for whatever amount Southern could afford. Southern members requested that they would like to see figures for RIACD income and expenses. Jean said she would check into. Kate commented that her and Kat's presentation at the National ACD meeting was very well received.

Treasurer's Report: (August financial statement, entitled, *September SRICD Financials* accompanies these minutes). Total assets, \$16,079.19 . Harvey was pleased that we seem to be holding our own. Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented. Harriet made the motion, Rudi seconded. Unanimous.

District Manager's Report (Please see accompanying written DM Report).

Kate reported on the high points of the many different programs and activities discussed in her report, including that farmers were not particularly happy at being reminded that they needed a complete conservation plan. Kate said a revolution brewing among those farmers who have heretofore not had to pay for conservation plans. (Welcome to the new world!) At last RISCC meeting, the District was asked if the Goose Eradication Program could borrow Kat to run the program in Eastern District and take statewide if possible, and they would, hopefully pick up her salary or reimburse us for it. How Kat would get paid was not made clear. The program is funded until Spring, 2015. Clark was concerned about Southern being at risk of spending on this program and not knowing where the money was to come from to reimburse it. It was suggested by Harriet that in the future, when RISCC has a proposal, it is put in writing in a form that answers all questions and which the Southern Board could then approve. In the absence of such a document, Harvey made a motion to accede to

RISCC's request for Kat to complete the grant application (i.e., work on the Goose project) for a period not to exceed 20 hours. Harriet seconded; the motion passed unanimously. RISCC will be asked to put future such requests in writing.

Kate said that the District needed a trimble GPS to complete the Cocumcussuc project. A motion was made by Harvey that the SRICD purchase the designated GPS for use at Southern for current and future projects at a cost not to exceed \$1000. Carl seconded. The motion passed unanimously. It was suggested that the cost might be offset by applying for a small trails grant.

As have to have a match fo upcoming grants, important to remember to document volunteer hours, mileage, etc. Subcommittee time also can be used as a match so it should be documented as well. Can also use time spent on FFOS plans. Important to document all qualified for the match and give hours and expenses to Kate.

NRCS Report, Stew Taffe (A copy of John's/Stew's NRCS report accompanies these minutes.) Stew attended the SRICD Board meeting in John Richard's stead. John was in an automobile accident and is recovering. Stu reported that the most applications have come from the Southern District. He also said that in 2015 spat on shell will be allowed for the oyster aquaculture program

RISCC Report: Nothing of importance to report.

Other Business Office Space. Biggest issue is a new office space for SRICD. Maria Mack knows our need. Eric has inquired at DEM, and they also know the need and have empty space. Hopefully, they will have some space in future before we actually are on the street. Clark said that there may be an opportunity for the District to take over a colonial home that is being given to the South Kingstown Land Trust as part of a larger property. The trust does not like to acquire homes, so might be inclined to give it or sell it to the District. No answers to questions about its condition or how much it might cost to bring up to code. The house is accessible from behind Upper College Road. SRICD might consider going to Champlin to get a grant to renovate. They give grants for improvement of historic homes. There is also no information on what the property tax situation might be. Clark suggested we might be qualified to request a payment *in lieu* of taxes, It was decided that the opportunity was worth looking into, which Clark will do in a report to the Board in October.

Annual Dinner The Annual Dinner is being held on October 27<sup>th</sup>, tentatively at the South Kingstown Land Trust Barn. A discussion followed on what the Board would do to make ready, where food would come from, how much the Barn would cost to rent, etc. It was felt that the Director should look into the differences in cost of putting on a catered dinner at the Barn including the rental fee, and any greater or lesser headaches in having the dinner at a restaurant. More to come.

New Business DEM would like, it seems, for the SRICD to do some easement monitoring. Ken Ayers spoke about easement monitoring at the RISCC and it is an activity that Southern could undertake. Eric said that we should let Ken know we are interested and that this is an activity that Southern could depend on for years. A motion was made that should the Southern District get this work from DEM that Kate may hire a person to do that work or hire someone to do other SRICD work, and do the DEM work herself. Rudi made the motion, Harriet seconded and it was approved unanimously with the caveat that the proposal be in writing.

**Envirothon Peter Stetson. Peter thanked the Board for being willing to act as sponsors for the Envirothon, but told the Board the Envirothon had been readopted by Coventry High School, after originally canceling based on cost. All going forward successfully. Workshops planned for October 18, March 7<sup>th</sup> and the event is on May 15 at Champlin in North Scituate. Peter asked the Board members to consider purchasing reduced-rate gift cards, which would help raise needed funds for the Envirothon.**

**Rudi moved to adjourn at 6:07.**

**Submitted by Harriet Powell**