

**SOUTHERN RHODE ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 23, 2015
AT THE URI MASTER GARDENER FIELD HOUSE**

Present: Clark Collins, Chair; Harvey Buford, Treasurer; Carl Sawyer, Secretary; Rudi Hempe, Board Member; Kate Bousquet, District Manager; Christine Dudley, RIDEM Fish and Wildlife; Kimberly Sullivan, RIDEM Fish and Wildlife; Paul Dolan, RIRC&D; Jean Lynch, RIACD

I. Clark called the meeting to order at 4:07PM.

II. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion made to approve minutes from the Nov. 3, 2014 and Dec. 15, 2014 meetings. Rudy, Harvey, unanimous.

III. Presentation of Educator of the Year Award

Peter Stetson presented the SRICD Educator of the Year Award to Kimberly Sullivan, RIDEM, for her outstanding contributions in wetland ecology and freshwater fisheries education. Kimberly was accompanied by Christine Dudley, RIDEM.

IV. Small Scale Forestry Project

Paul Dolan, RIRC&D, reported on a forestry project targeting landowners with five acres or more of forest. The project will consist of four workshops including tree identification and invasive plant management. Paul sought permission to contact potential participants in the SRICD area, primarily in the towns of West Greenwich, Richmond and Hopkinton. The audience would include land trusts and conservation commissions as well as private land owners.

V. NACD Annual Meeting Report

Jean Lynch, RIACD, reported on her trip to the annual meeting of NACD in New Orleans Feb. 1-4, 2015. Jean submitted a report summarizing activities of each of the three Districts. Proceedings of the meeting can be viewed on a link provided on the NACD website. Jean will be participating in the Spring Fly-In to Washington, D.C. where she will be presenting RI District concerns to RI Congressional members, and asked to be made aware of any Southern District concerns. Jean also noted that the Long Island Sound Watershed RCPP may be a source of funding for Southern District projects.

VI. Reports

Treasurer's Report: Harvey Buford submitted the Treasurer's Report for approval. Motion to approve treasurer's report. Rudy, Carl, unanimous. Kate remarked that she was slowly making progress with Quickbooks. Motion made to contribute \$100.00 to NACD. Rudy, Peter, unanimous.

District Manager's Report: Kate submitted a three page report updating activities on all projects. Report is attached. In discussion, it was agreed that SRICD would renew Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed membership with \$100.00 dues.

NRCS Report: No report as John Richard, District Conservationist, is still out on medical leave. It is expected that John will be able to return to work March 2nd. Melissa Hayden has been assuming some of John's responsibilities.

VII. Old Business

- A.** Harvey gave an overview of his presentation planned for the March 14, Land and Water Summit.
- B.** Kate will set up the display table at the Summit.

VIII. New Business

A. Resignations/Appointments: Motion made to accept, with much regret, Harriet Powell's resignation. Rudy, Harvey, unanimous. Motion made to appoint Harriet as Associate Director. Rudy, Harvey, unanimous. Motion to appoint Carl Sawyer as Secretary. Rudy, Harvey, unanimous.

Discussion: Rudy will prepare a press release for recruitment of new Board members. Rudy also noted that it would be good to try to get a Board member from the Kent County area.

Motion made to appoint Harriet as SRICD representative to RC&D. Harvey, Rudy, unanimous.

The deadline for Board member applications will be the date of the SRICD April meeting (April 20).

B. Envirothon: Peter Stetson reported that aquatic education training is underway and an environmental issues workshop has been scheduled. The Envirothon will be held May 15th. The annual breakfast fundraiser will be held March 28 at Dave's Bar and Grille in Warwick. Two new schools will be competing this year.

C. Hopkinton Mapping Contract: Motion made to approve a contract with The Hopkinton Land Trust for fifteen hours of mapping work at a rate of \$45/hour. Harvey, Peter, unanimous.

Motion to adjourn at 5:40 PM. Harvey, Carl.

The next Board meeting will be held at 4:00 PM on March 23, 2015 at the URI Master Gardener Field House

Minutes submitted by Carl Sawyer, Secretary, SRICD