

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

Present: Clark Collins, Chair; Harvey Buford, Treasurer; Carl Sawyer, Secretary; J. Eric Scherer Assoc. Dir.; Harriet Powell, Assoc. Dir.; Kate Bousquet, District Manager; Jean Lynch, RIACD; Antonia Bryson, guest; Thomas Bryson, guest.

I. Clark called the meeting to order at 4:04PM.

II. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion made to approve minutes from the Feb. 23, 2015 meeting. Harvey, Carl, unanimous.

III. Reports

RIACD: Jean Lynch reported on her NACD Spring 'Fly-In' to Wash. D.C. on March 18 with Dick Wendt and R. Phou Vonkhamdy, SC, to present Conservation District concerns to RI congressmen. Had favorable receptions with offices of Senators Reed and Whitehouse, and Rep. Langevin. Report on file.

Financial Statement: Harvey submitted Treasurer's Report/Financial Statement for approval. Motion to accept approved. Harvey, Carl, unanimous. Report on file.

District Manager's Report: Kate submitted updated report of SRICD projects. Report attached.

NRCS Report: Kate reported for John Richard who is still on medical leave. Projects being prioritized for funding include oyster spat establishment in Bissel's Cove and Ninigret Pond, and Cottontail preservation areas. The NRCS State Engineer position has been posted.

Envirothon: No report, however it was noted that a fundraising breakfast would be held at Dave's Bar and Grill in Warwick on March 28th.

Ag Council Report: Carl attended March 19 meeting and reported on SRICD activities. Passed around Al Bettencourt's legislative update. Noted that Kristen Castrotaro will be new Ag Council president and Peter Stetson will be second V.P. Al Bettencourt is retiring as Exec. Dir. of the Farm Bureau.

IV. Old Business

- A. Board Position update.** Kate reported for Rudy that solicitation for Board members has been posted in local newspapers and sent to numerous ag., conservation and land use groups. Positions will need signature support.
- B. Land and Water Summit.** Summit was a sellout and well-attended by Board members. Harvey gave presentation and Kate and Eric set up and attended SRICD table/display.
- C. America the Beautiful Grant.** Eric reported that RINLA funding for grant is from HUD. Demonstration tree plantings will get underway once snow is gone.

V. New Business

A. Budget Subcommittee. A Budget Subcommittee consisting of Harvey, Clark, Kate and Carl was formed and will meet prior to the next Board meeting.

B. MOU between NOFA/RI and RISCC. MOU attached. In discussion, the suggestion was made that the purpose of the document might be more clearly stated at the beginning. A motion for Clark to sign the MOU for SRICD participation was approved. Harvey, Carl, unanimous.

C. North Kingstown Water Quality Forum. Harriet invited Board members to attend a Forum 'Fifty Shades of Green – Trying to Make Water Sexy' to be held at the Beechwood Senior Center on April 16, 2015. The Forum will address water quality issues in NK.

D. Volunteer Opportunities. Eric passed around a DEM flyer soliciting volunteers for projects including herring counts, bat surveys, bear surveys and goose banding.

Motion to adjourn at 5:50 PM. Harvey, Carl.

The next Board meeting will be held at 4:00 PM on Monday, April 27, 2015 at the URI Master Gardener Field House. The budget Committee will meet at 3:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Carl Sawyer, Secretary, SRICD