

**SOUTHERN RHODE ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD JUNE 22, 2015
AT THE URI MASTER GARDENER FIELD HOUSE**

Present: Clark Collins, Chair; Harvey Buford, Treasurer; Carl Sawyer, Secretary; Rudi Hempe, Dir.; Harriet Powell, Assoc. Dir; Antonia Bryson, Dir.-in-waiting; Molly Allard, NRICD; John Richard, NRCS.

Absent: Kate Bousquet, District Manager, was traveling out of State and unable to attend.

I. Clark called the meeting to order at 4:13PM.

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion made to approve minutes from the May 18, 2015 meeting. Harvey, Rudi, unanimous.

III. Reports

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

2015-2016 Budget: Harvey presented a draft FY 2015-2016 Budget and Sub-Ledger Budget prepared by Kate based on figures derived by the Budget Sub-Committee. After review, a motion to accept the budget as presented was approved. Harvey, Rudi, unanimous. Report on file.

District Manager's Report: Kate's report was presented by Clark in her absence. The report was reviewed and filed. Of note was the fact that Kate had contacted Rick Rhodes, URI/CELS, regarding continued use of office space at East Farm. An MOU is yet to be put in place, however, Rick assured Kate that SRICD need not worry about losing the space. The contract and scope of work for the Hopkinton Land Trust/Grills Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan was discussed. John suggested that NRCS might be able to assist with technical and/or financial assistance under certain circumstances. Harvey and John agreed to discuss this further, and a motion to approve the contract as written was approved. Rudi, Carl, unanimous.

At this point, the Agenda was modified to allow Molly Allard, NRICD, to present a **Statewide Service Opportunity in Conservation Education**. In overview, Molly proposed providing fee-for-service watershed education classes to third-graders using curriculum kits provided by GEMS-NET, a science curriculum development company affiliated with URI, to schools throughout the State. It is not anticipated that program would produce a large volume of work, but rather occasional fee-for-service work opportunities. Molly would be willing to do presentations in all three Districts, or, if preferred, train SRICD or ERICD staff to conduct the classes. Molly's summary is filed with these minutes. A motion to approve Molly to proceed with fee-for-service watershed education programs in the Southern District passed unanimously (Rudi, Harvey).

NRCS Report: John submitted an updated report which is filed with these minutes. John noted that, of statewide funding in this cycle, 60% of the funding has been in the Southern District. State staff have requested additional funds to direct toward remaining Oyster Initiative applications.

Ag Council Report: No report.

Envirothon Report: No report.

RI State Conservation Committee Report: Clark reported that the Committee is continuing development of a strategic plan. Ramona's position of administrative support was advertised and there were eleven applicants. Five

applicants were interviewed and the position was offered to one applicant who has not yet accepted the position. The position would be for 20-25 hrs/week at a starting wage of \$24.00/hr.

IV. Old Business

- A. Board Position update:** Antonia submitted her 25 signatures required for appointment. A motion to submit her application to the RISCC for appointment to the Board passed unanimously (Rudy, Harvey). In light of Ramona's resignation, Harriet suggested that it would be useful to have a written statement of the requirements/specifications for director appointments. Clark will bring this up with the RISCC.
- B. 2015 Annual Dinner:** There was discussion of award nominations for this year's dinner. John said that he did not feel qualified to make suggestions this year because he had been out so much with health issues. Antonia nominated Wild Harmony Farm for farmer of the year. There was unanimous favor in having a joint annual meeting with other Districts and RC&D. It was decided that it would be best to hold off on additional award nominations until there was a meeting with other Districts to discuss the format of the meeting. Rudy volunteered to be the SRICD representative on the planning committee. Antonia will contact Wild Harmony Farm about the possibility of holding the July SRICD meeting at that farm.

V. New Business

- A. Statewide Service Opportunity:** Presented by Molly Allard earlier in the amended agenda.
- B. ERICD Executive Director resignation:** Clark noted that Jesse Blackledge had resigned from her position as ERICD Executive Director and the position had not yet been filled.

Motion to adjourn at 5:52 PM. Harvey, Carl.

The next Board meeting will be held on July 27th, hopefully at Wild Harmony Farm at 3:00PM, otherwise at 4:00PM at the Master Gardener Field House.

Minutes submitted by Carl Sawyer, Secretary, SRICD