

**SOUTHERN RHODE ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST 24, 2015  
AT THE FASANO TREE FARM**

Present: Carl Sawyer, Secretary; Rudi Hempe, Dir.; Antonia Bryson, Dir.; Peter Stetson, Assoc. Dir.; Harriet Powell, Assoc. Dir.; Kate Bousquet, District Manager; Jean Lynch, RIACD; John Richard, NRCS; Ron and Mary Fasano, Hosts.

**I. Rudi called the meeting to order at 4:14 PM** and thanked the Fasanos for hosting our meeting and taking us on a tour of their property.

**II. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the July 27, 2015 meeting were approved after amending Old Business Item B. to read 'The second workshop would be held August 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-7:00'. Antonia, Peter, unanimous.

**III. Reports**

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

**District Manager's Report:** Kate presented a written report which is filed with these minutes. In addition to the written report, Kate noted that:

- an application for legislative funding for SRICD would be submitted for the amount of \$18,035.
- she contacted Pete August, URI/CELS/Dept. Nat. Res., regarding assistance with a Story Map. Pete suggested other faculty in the Dept. might be more appropriate. Kate will contact them when semester begins.
- she contacted people running the URI/CELS Coastal Fellows Program and thought there might be an opportunity to participate in the program depending on the project and funding.
- She will be meeting with an accountant, Alan Horn, about reviewing SRICD books. There was discussion about whether Alan might also review books of the other Districts and RISCC.
- she noted that Kat Zuromski was resigning to take a position with NRCS in VT, and that it might require several part time people to take over her responsibilities.

**RI Association of Conservation Districts Report:** Jean Lynch reported that she attended the Northeast Regional meeting of Conservation Districts in West Virginia August 2-4. Jean handed out a report summarizing recent activities of the three RI Districts. She encouraged the Southern District to pay what they could toward the \$775 annual dues to the NACD. Next year's regional meeting will be held in New Jersey. She noted that the Northern District will be hosting an open house at their Snake Den Farm property as part of Land Trust Days.

**NRCS Report:** John Richard, NRCS, provided a written report summarizing programs underway in the Southern District. John noted that Mike Kenyon and Stew Taffe had left the State Office. He also encouraged SRICD board members to attend the Local Working Group meeting to be held at the State Office 9/16/2015. Kate noted that she would be assisting John with oyster project data collection through the Fall.

**Envirothon Report:** Peter Stetson noted that Narragansett High School finished 40<sup>th</sup> out of 52 teams in the national competition. Orientation for the 2016 RI competition, focusing on invasive species, will be held Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> at Gregg's Restaurant. The Envirothon Committee is attempting to get more schools involved.

**Ag Council Report:** Peter Stetson reported that he attended the Ag Council display at the Washington County Fair. The new location, between the two ag display buildings, provided much better exposure than the building occupied in previous years. He noted that the WCF is a good opportunity for exposure and encouraged Board members to consider volunteering some time next year.

**RI State Conservation Committee Report:** Kate reported for Clark that they had both attended the last meeting. Administrative assistant to replace Ramona LeBlanc has not been hired yet. With increasing inter-District

cooperation on projects, the SCC has been discussing how cooperative efforts will be overseen. Jean noted that the SCC is going to seek legislative funding for the Eastern District this year. Harriet suggested getting a concerted effort together with all 11 towns in the Southern District to approach State Reps for funding. Harriet volunteered to work with Kate in effort to approach towns.

**RI RC&D Report:** Harriet noted that RC&D has been working on a Statewide goat initiative.

#### **IV. Old Business**

- A. Wild Harmony Farm Visits:** Antonia attended a RIFCO twilight meeting August 13th at Wild Harmony Farm where there was, among other things, a great demonstration of logging with horses. Carl reported that he and Harvey attended a Young Farmers Network twilight meeting August 12<sup>th</sup> with a tour of Wild Harmony forestry, animal husbandry and maple sugaring operations.
- B. 2015 Annual Dinner Planning:** Jean noted that she was not getting replies from people at Eastern regarding annual dinner plans. After discussion, consensus was that we should lock in on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> date at the West Valley Inn.
- C. SRICD Small Scale Forestry Outreach:** Antonia gave update on SRICD-RC&D effort to promote small scale forestry in the District. The program was quite successful in the Northern District, however outreach needs to be improved in Southern efforts.
- D. Potential SRICD Associate Directors:** Rudi said Frank Golet was quite busy in his retirement and did not want to commit to the position at this time. Rudi said that Mark Stolt, URI Soils professor might be a possibility and that he would contact Mark once the semester began.

#### **V. New Business**

- A. Request to Reconvene SRICD Subcommittee for Hiring Employees:** Rudi and Harriet volunteered to be on the Committee. Clark and Harvey, unable to attend today, will be asked to participate. Kate will email job description to Committee members.
- B. Invitation to RI NRCS State Conservationist to a Board Meeting:** Kate noted that State Conservationist Phou Vongkhmdy would like to attend one of our meetings. After discussion, it was decided to invite him to our Oct. 26, 2015 meeting.

**Motion to adjourn at 5:58 PM.** Antonia, Carl.

**The next Board meeting will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 4:00PM at the Master Gardener Field House.**

Minutes submitted by Carl Sawyer, Secretary, SRICD