

**SOUTHERN RHODE ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD DECEMBER 28, 2015  
AT THE URI MASTER GARDENER FIELD HOUSE**

Present: Clark Collins, Chair; Rudi Hempe, Dir.; Harvey Buford, Treasurer; Carl Sawyer, Secretary; Antonia Bryson, Dir.; Kate Bousquet, District Manager; Peter Ogle, Quonochontaug East Beach Water Association.

**I. Clark called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.**

**II. New Business Agenda Item Moved to Beginning of Meeting:** Kate introduced Peter Ogle from the Quonochontaug East Beach Water Association. Peter described the QEBWA, founded in 1992, as a community-based, non-profit water system providing potable water to 110 mostly seasonal residences in the 'Quonny' section of Charlestown. Peter presented data showing that well water nitrate levels have been slowly but steadily increasing in recent years. Approximately 75% of the 110 residences have conventional septic systems, while the remainder have denitrification (De-N) systems. Pete noted that De-N systems require periodic testing so that service providers can adjust the system to improve nitrate removal efficiency. Pete wondered if the SRICD would be interested and able to administer a monitoring program. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that Kate and Carl would set up a meeting with George Loomis and Jose Amador, URI ISDS researchers, to determine what would be required to develop a proposal for a monitoring program. The program would be implemented in 2017.

**III. Acceptance of November 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes.** Motion to approve minutes as written passed (Rudi, Clark, unanimous).

**IV. Reports**

**A. Financial Statement:** Kate submitted Treasurer's Report/Financial Statement. Alan Hornstein, Accountant, was invited to the meeting to go over the format, but was unable to attend. Motion to accept approved. Harvey, Rudi, unanimous. Report on file.

**B. NRCS Report:** John Richard, NRCS, was unable to attend. No report.

**C. Envirothon Report:** Peter Stetson was unable to attend. No Report.

**D. District Manager's Report:** Kate presented a detailed written report which is filed with these minutes. Of note: The North Kingstown Groundwater Committee will host a program at the NK Library Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM to promote pollinator habitat. Gary Casabona, NRCS, will be featured speaker.

**V. Old Business**

**A. Status of SRICD Personnel/Hiring Process:** Clark and Kate reported that there were 40 applicants. A full day was spent interviewing 10 applicants and the field has been narrowed down to three candidates.

**B. SRICD Personnel Policy:** Kate inquired about District policy regarding hiring, dismissal and probationary status of employees. After discussion, a motion was made to change the probationary period for employees to 60 days. Motion passed (Rudi, Harvey, unanimous).

**VI. New Business**

**A. Discussed above under item I.**

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

**The next Board meeting will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 4:00PM at the Master Gardener Field House.**

Minutes submitted by Carl Sawyer, Secretary, SRICD