

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

Present: Clark Collins, Chair; Rudi Hempe, Dir.; Carl Sawyer, Secretary; Antonia Bryson, Dir.; Peter Stetson, Assoc. Dir.; Kate Bousquet, District Manager; John Richard, NRCS;

**I. Rudi called the meeting to order at 4:14 PM and chaired meeting until Clark's arrival at 4:25.**

**II. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the October 26, 2015 meeting were approved as written. Carl, Rudi, unanimous.

**III. Reports**

**Financial Statement:** Kate submitted Treasurer's Report/Financial Statement. While balances seemed to be in order, there was some confusion as to how they were derived and it was agreed that Alan Hornstein, Accountant, would be invited to the next meeting to clarify report format. Motion to accept approved. Rudi, Carl, unanimous. Report on file.

**NRCS Report:** John Richard, NRCS, provided a written report summarizing programs underway in the Southern District. John noted that hold-ups in permitting caused delay of 2015 oyster deployment until the second week of December, two months later than the desirable deployment date of mid-October. Efforts are being made to streamline the permitting process for next year. A Southern District outreach event is scheduled for Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at the Crandall House in Hopkinton. There was discussion regarding the new Monarch Butterfly and Native Bee Program, and the Scrub Shrub Habitat Program which will continue to benefit the New England Cottontail population.

**Envirothon Report:** Peter reported that he had talked Chris Modisette (NRCS) about feasibility of using RCPP funds to hire students to map and label storm drains. Peter has not yet heard back from Chris. The 2016 competition will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup> at a location yet to be determined. A fundraising letter will be going out shortly.

**Ag Council Report:** Peter reported that the next meeting will be in March.

**RI State Conservation Committee Report:** Clark did not have a report as he was in Cuba at the time of the Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Kate attended the meeting and related that the Committee had agreed to meet every other month rather than monthly. Molly Allard (NRICD) is drafting a brochure outlining the process for development of whole farm conservation plans.

**District Manager's Report:** Kate presented a detailed written report which is filed with these minutes. Of note: there will be a Small Scale Forestry outreach program Dec. 5, at the Exeter Library, and about 40 resumes have been received for position to manage NRCS CTA project.

**IV. Old Business**

- A. 2015 Annual Dinner:** All who were able to attend the annual dinner/awards meeting agreed that the meeting was successful and were in favor of future joint conservation partner meetings if others are interested. It was also agreed that a larger venue would be desirable for such a meeting.

**V. New Business**

- A. Signature Authority for FFOS Applications:** Kate noted that the FFOS application process would be facilitated more easily if the District Manager were allowed to sign off on the application. A motion (Antonia, Carl) to allow the District Manager to sign off on FFOS applications passed unanimously.
- B. Food Waste Composting:** Antonia reported that she is working for the RI Food Policy Council on environmental issues. The Council helped draft amendments to DEM's solid waste regulations that will enable schools, community gardens, towns, and other small scale entities to compost food waste. It is

hoped that the amendments will be issued shortly. Antonia will be trying to stimulate composting activity once they are effective.

**Motion to adjourn at 6:03 PM.** Rudi, Carl.

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

Minutes submitted by Carl Sawyer, Secretary, SRICD