

**SOUTHERN RHODE ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SRICD)**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 22, 2016**  
**AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND (URI)**  
**MASTER GARDENER FIELD HOUSE**

Present: Clark Collins, Chair; Rudi Hempe, Dir.; Harvey Buford, Treasurer; Carl Sawyer, Secretary; Antonia Bryson, Dir.; Peter Stetson, Assoc. Dir.; Kate Bousquet, District Manager; John Richard, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

**I. Clark called the meeting to order at 4:05PM.**

**II. Acceptance of January 25, 2016 meeting minutes.** Motion to approve minutes as written passed (Antonia, Harvey, unanimous).

**III. Reports**

**A. Financial Statement:** Kate provided and reviewed a written statement. Motion to approve as written passed (Rudi, Harvey, unanimous). Report on file.

**B. NRCS Report:** John Richard, NRCS, provided a written report. John noted that there are 85 applications For Fiscal Year 2016 Farm Bill projects in the Southern District. Last year there were more sites than applicants for Oyster Initiative projects. This year there are more applicants than sites.

**C. Envirothon Report:** Peter Stetson reported that nine people attended a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) workshop and that an Aquatic and Wildlife workshop is scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup>. Peter reminded the Board that a scholarship fundraising breakfast will be held April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Dave's Bar and Grill, 2339 Post Rd., Warwick. The competition will be held May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Kent County Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

**D. District Manager's Report:** Kate presented a detailed written report which is filed with these minutes. Of note: there will be a SRICD Spring Workshop April 7, 2016, 5:30-7:00PM at the South Kingstown Land Trust Barn (Matunuck) to present 2016 NRCS initiatives including Monarch butterfly and native bee habitat, scrub/shrub habitat, and urban farming.

Kate also distributed a written report prepared by staff person Naomi Andrews documenting progress on the Hopkinton Conservation Commission mapping project. The report and sample maps are on file.

**V. Old Business**

**A. Board Director Election/Appointment Requirements:** Antonia reported that the Board is limited to five directors with three appointed by the Rhode Island State Conservation Committee (RISCC) (Clark, Rudi and Antonia) and two elected prior to appointment by the RISCC (Harvey and Carl). All directors serve three year terms. Clark and Rudi's terms have expired; Harvey and Carl's terms will expire in October, 2016; Antonia's term will expire in two years. It is still unclear which directors need signatures for appointment. Antonia will contact Gina DeMarco, Northern Rhode Island Conservation District (NRICD) Manager, for clarification.

**B. Potential Project Progress:** Kate reported that she, Gina DeMarco, and Sara Churgin met with Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) personnel to discuss how the Districts might be able to assist with mitigation of roadside soil erosion and runoff pollution. There was discussion of a possible Memorandum of Understanding including RISCC, Conservation Districts, and RIDOT. District involvement might include watershed and storm drain mapping, and community/town outreach and education.

**C. Office Lease:** Kate contacted Rick Rhodes, Associate Dean, URI College of the Environment and Life Sciences (CELS), to obtain a copy of the lease, however Rick said it was still in Dean Kirby's possession.

Kate will make arrangements to get a copy in the next week. The lease is for a sum of one dollar per year for the two East rooms of Building 50 at URI's East Farm. A motion was made, seconded and voted to authorize Clark to sign the lease (Harvey, Rudi, unanimous).

**D. Agricultural Council Display:** Peter reported that the Ag. Council had been awarded a grant to promote agriculture and the Council in particular. As part of the effort, the Council would like each member to develop a display of its activities in time for the May 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

**E. Story Map:** Peter reported that Harvey had sent him photos for the story map, however, he would like additional pictures of other projects, including their latitude and longitude.

#### **VI. New Business**

**A. Budget Development:** Kate noted that she would like to reconvene the Budget Committee (Clark, Harvey, Carl and Harriet). Kate will develop a draft budget for discussion.

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

**The next Board meeting will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 4:00PM at the Master Gardener Field House.**

Minutes submitted by Carl Sawyer, Secretary, SRICD