

**SOUTHERN RHODE ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SRICD)**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD MARCH 28, 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 4:06PM.**

**II. Acceptance of February 22, 2016 meeting minutes.** Motion to approve minutes as written passed (Clark, Rudi, unanimous).

**III. Reports**

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

**B. NRCS Report:** John Richard, NRCS, provided a written report. John noted that 87 projects, 48% of the state-wide total, have been pre-approved for funding in the Southern District for fiscal year 2016.

**C. Envirothon Report:** Peter Stetson reported that Dave Westcott will take over as President of the organization. Three new teams this year will bring the total to seventeen. An environmental issues workshop focused on a statewide invasive species strategy was held.

**D. Ag Council Report:** Peter Stetson reported that the next meeting will be May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Richmond Grange Hall and will feature displays set up by member organizations. Carl will set up the SRICD display.

**E. District Manager's Report:** Kate presented a detailed written report which is filed with these minutes. Kate also distributed a written report prepared by staff person Naomi Andrews documenting progress on the Hopkinton Conservation Commission mapping project. The report is also on file.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. Land and Water Summit Overview:** Carl and Harvey commented on workshops attended. Both found Peter Stetson's presentation on ArcGIS to be very informative. Kate noted that the SRICD display, staffed by she and Jake Peterson, was off in a corner where traffic was light.

**B. District Directorship Update:** Antonia reported that Gina DeMarco, Northern Rhode Island Conservation District manager, told her that district directors who are reappointed to a new term need to obtain 25 nomination signatures.

**C. 2016 Annual Dinner Update:** Carl reported that he attended a planning meeting Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> with representatives from other participating groups. Carl did not have his notes of the meeting and will email details of the meeting to Board members.

**V. New Business**

**A. Nomination Process for Potential 2016 Award Winners:** Kate reminded the Board that we should be considering nominees for 2016 annual awards. Kate will email a reminder and award criteria prior to the April meeting.

**B. Other: Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District (ERICD) Project Proposal:** ERICD Manager, Sara Churgin, has proposed a project to train farmers in business plan preparation. She would like to hold workshops in all three of the RI Districts. After discussion, it was decided that Kate will ask Sarah for more details about the project and forward to SRICD board members.

**Motion to adjourn at 6:02 PM.** Rudi, Antonia

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

Minutes submitted by Carl Sawyer, Secretary, SRICD