

**SOUTHERN RHODE ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SRICD)**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD MAY 23, 2016**  
**AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND (URI)**  
**MASTER GARDENER FIELD HOUSE**

Present: Clark Collins, Chair (joined meeting at 4:24 PM); Rudi Hempe, Dir.; Harvey Buford, Treasurer; Carl Sawyer, Secretary; Harriet Powell, Associate Dir.; Kate Bousquet, District Manager; Jean Lynch, Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts (RIACD); John Richard, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

**I. Rudi called the meeting to order at 4:08PM.** Agenda was modified as Clark did not join the meeting until 4:25PM.

**III. Acceptance of April 25, 2016 meeting minutes.** Motion to approve minutes with the following modifications passed (Harvey, Carl, unanimous). Under New Business D. insert 'as an ancillary to agricultural farming' at the end of the first sentence.

**IV. Reports**

**A. Financial Statement:** Kate provided and reviewed a written statement. Motion to approve as written passed (Harvey, Carl, unanimous). Report on file. Kate noted that she plans to have accountant reconcile books in July.

**B. NRCS Report:** John provided a written report citing much activity in the Southern District. There was interesting discussion of projects designed to increase bat populations.

**C. Envirothon Report:** There was no report as Peter was unable to attend, however, Kate, Antonia and Carl all attended and remarked on what a great time it was, especially as Peter's Coventry 1 team came in first place and will be representing RI at the national competition in Canada. Congratulations and well done to Peter and his team.

**D. Ag Council Report:** Carl reported that he set up the Southern District display board at the meeting which was held at the Richmond Grange on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Ag Council President Kristen Castrotaro unveiled the new grant-funded Ag Council display and encouraged member organizations to borrow and set up the display at any opportunity.

**E. RI State Conservation Committee (RISCC) Report:** Clark discussed efforts by the Committee to promote continued cooperation between the Districts. Following the meeting, Committee Chairperson, Maria Mack, Clark and the three District Managers attended a hearing before the House Finance Committee to justify grant expenditures for the Districts. Clark thought the meeting went well and that the District Managers did a great job on behalf of the Districts.

**F. District Manager's Report:** Kate presented a detailed written report which is filed with these minutes.

**II. Guest: Jean Lynch, Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts.** Jean noted that she will be going to the National Association of Conservation Districts meeting in Minneapolis July 15<sup>th</sup> thru the 17<sup>th</sup>. Jean would like photos and descriptions of District activities to present at the meeting. Kate remarked that there are a number of projects that the three Districts are cooperating on that could be noted.

**V. Old Business**

**A. Re-visit nominations for 2016 Conservation Awards & Summer Meetings:** Kate provided a written summary of SRICD 2016 Award Nominees. After discussion, it was agreed that the Board would like to schedule monthly meetings at Homelands Family Forest, Little River Farm and Tilted Barn Brewery and that she would attempt to set up a schedule. It was not decided whether or not a South Kingstown Land Trust property would be visited.

- B. Office Space, Lease at East Farm:** Kate met with University of Rhode Island Safety and Risk Management personnel to determine insurance requirements necessary for lease agreement. Additional space will add \$400 to the existing \$800 premium, bringing the annual total to approximately \$1200. A committee comprised of Harvey, Kate and Clark was established to work on layout and use of office space.
- C. Update on SRICD Farm, Forest and Open Space filing system:** Kate and Antonia are continuing to investigate procedures.
- D. Hopkinton/SRICD – Potential community forum, photovoltaic farms:** Harvey will attend upcoming workshops.
- E. Other:** Harvey suggested the possibility of establishing some sort of memorandum of understanding between the District and the Town of Hopkinton to streamline implementation of projects. It was suggested that this might also be possible with other towns for certain services. Kate will contact the Hopkinton Town Manager to assess feasibility of MOU.

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

- A. SRICD Board Consideration – Legislative Outreach Plan:** Clark led a discussion of how the District might be able to legally inform legislators of our services. Hosting an open house for legislators, municipality managers and other cooperators was suggested. Kate will follow up on idea with other districts and Jean Lynch. It was suggested that Jake Peterson might be of some assistance with his political science background and interests.
- B. Other: None.**

**Motion to adjourn at 5:52 PM.** Rudi, Harvey.

**The next Board meeting will be held on June 27, 2016 at 4:00PM at a location to be determined.**

Minutes submitted by Carl Sawyer, Secretary, SRICD