

**SOUTHERN RHODE ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 27, 2017
AT THE URI MASTER GARDENER FIELD HOUSE**

Present: Clarkson Collins, Chair; Harvey Buford, Treasurer; Carl Sawyer, Secretary; Rudi Hempe, Director; Antonia Bryson, Director; Melissa Hayden, NRCS District Conservationist; Jermaine Jenkins, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist of Field Operations; Kate Bousquet, District Manager.

I. Rudi called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM as Clark was delayed. Jermaine Jenkins, Recently hired NRCS Assistant State Conservationist of Field Operations for NRCS was introduced.

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the January 23, 2017 meeting were approved as written (Rudi, Harvey, unanimous).

III. Reports

- A. Financial Statement:** Kate submitted a written Treasurer's Report/Financial Statement. Kate noted that several invoices for significant funds will go out to NRCS in March. Motion to accept the report passed (Rudi, Harvey, unanimous).
- B. NRCS Report:** Melissa went over a written report, summarizing a great deal of NRCS activity in the District. She noted that Conservation Stewardship Program applications jumped from 6 to 15 over the past month.
- C. Envirothon:** Peter was unable to attend, however Kate relayed an emailed report. The Envirothon will be held at URI's East Farm on May 19th. An all-you-can-eat fundraising breakfast will be held at Dave's Bar and Grill, Post Rd., Warwick on March 26.
- D. District Manager's Report:** Kate presented a detailed written report which is filed with the minutes. Over 20 people attended the outreach workshop held at the Narragansett Indian Longhouse in Charlestown on January 25th. Six applications have been received for the NRCS Soil Health Agreement with more on the way. A written report from Naomi Andrews was also provided detailing work done for the Hopkinton Conservation Commission, FFOS mapping, and a mapping proposal for the Locustville Pond Improvement Association.

IV. Old Business

- A. Update on Legislative Outreach Efforts:** Kate reported that Maria Mack, RISCC Chairperson, and the three District Managers testified on the floor of the House of Representatives on behalf of Districts regarding the need for funding. Maria and the three District Managers also had a productive meeting with Rep. Abney, Chairperson of the House Finance Committee. Clark and Harriet are writing letters to the editors of local newspapers. Kate thought that, overall, the State funding situation is moving in a positive direction.
- B. SRICD Directorships:** It was decided to move this item to the end of the Agenda.
- C. Reporting for Operating Budget Funding:** Kate reported that Sarah Churgin, Eastern District Manager, said that each District should send a quarterly report requesting reimbursement for operating budget funding. There was considerable discussion about what qualified for operating expenses. Sarah told Kate she would send Eastern's quarterly report as an example. Kate will forward the report to Directors and email Sarah regarding questions raised during discussion.

D. Collection of SRICD Volunteer Hours: Kate reminded Board members to submit volunteer hours via Google Gmail.

E. Other: There was no further old business.

As there was no New Business, at this point we returned to Old Business B. SRICD Directorship. Clark noted that the law establishing the Conservation Districts allows periodic appointment of a District director to serve as chairperson. A motion was made nominating Antonia Bryson as Chairperson. The motion passed (Rudi, Harvey, unanimous). Kate will contact the bank to find out what is required to transfer signature authority for check writing.

As there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn at 6:12 PM (Rudi, Harvey, unanimous).

The next meeting will be held on March 27, 2017, at 4 PM at the URI East Farm Master Gardener Field House.

Minutes submitted by Carl Sawyer, Secretary, SRICD