

**SOUTHERN RHODE ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST 28, 2017
AT THE URI MASTER GARDENER FIELD HOUSE**

Present: Antonia Bryson, Chair; Carl Sawyer, Secretary; Rudi Hempe, Director; Clarkson Collins, Director; Peter Stetson, Associate Director; Kate Bousquet, District Manager.

I. Antonia called the meeting to order at 4:09 PM. Carl did not arrive until 4:20. Kate recorded minutes until that time.

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the June 26, 2017 meeting were approved (Clark Rudi, unanimous). Note: there was no July meeting.

III. Reports - written reports are filed with the minutes.

- A. **Financial Statement:** Kate went over a written Treasurer's Report/Financial Statement.
- B. **NRCS Report:** Melissa Hayden, NRCS, was unable to make the meeting. Kate provided a written report submitted by Melissa of NRCS activities in the District.
- C. **RI Envirothon:** Peter reported that the Coventry team placed a respectable 38th out of 52 at the national competition held in Maryland. The topic for the 2018 competition will be Western rangeland, with the national competition held in Idaho.
- D. **District Manager's Report:** Kate went over her written report of updates on District projects and agreements. Of note, the Board was encouraged to attend a Soil Health outreach event scheduled for September 26 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM at the Crandall Minacommuck Farm (Narragansett Indian Tribe) in Westerly.

IV. Old Business

- A. **State Funding:** Kate provided an email from Terrence Maguire, DEM Assistant Director, Financial Contract Management, stating that SRICD would receive a grant of \$15,000, providing funding support until June 30, 2018.
- B. **Washington County Fair Overview:** Peter, Antonia and Carl commented on their experiences while tending the Ag Council display at the Fair. After discussion, the consensus seemed to be that effort should be put into developing a more effective display and that the considerable time spent to address relatively few visitors should be reassessed.
- C. **Consultants - Media and Office Management:** Kate reported that she had posted positions on URI and Brown University list serves. Kate is receiving resumes from applicants for the Media Consultant and Office Management Assistant positions.
- D. **Annual Meeting:** Kate reported that the only date available for holding the annual meeting at the Varnum Armory is Saturday, November 11th. Planning will proceed for that date.

V. New Business

- A. **Perry Mill Pond:** Clark described a problem with excessive weed growth in the mill pond which supplies water to the Perry Gristmill owned by the South Kingstown Land Trust. He wondered if Board members had thoughts about ways to investigate and resolve the problem. There was discussion of possible sources of excess nutrients in the watershed and enlisting URI's Watershed Watch Program to monitor the pond.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22PM

The next meeting will be held on September 25, 2017, at 4 PM at the URI East Farm Master Gardener Field House.

Minutes submitted by Carl Sawyer, Secretary, SRICD

