

**SOUTHERN RHODE ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 25, 2017
AT THE URI MASTER GARDENER FIELD HOUSE**

Present: Antonia Bryson, Chair; Carl Sawyer, Secretary; Harvey Buford, Treasurer; Melissa Hayden, NRCS District Conservationist; Kate Bousquet, District Manager.

I. Antonia called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the June 26, 2017 meeting were approved as written accountant (Antonia, Carl, unanimous).

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

- A. **Financial Statement:** Kate went over a written Treasurer's Report/Financial Statement which is on file with the minutes. She also noted that the accountant had reviewed the books and everything was in order. Harvey asked about billing for the \$15,000 State bridge funding. Kate said that we will be able to bill for all of it, however, financial concerns will arise when NRCS contracts run out. There was discussion of the need to have staff capable of pursuing grant-funded opportunities.
- B. **NRCS Report:** Melissa Hayden, NRCS, went over a written report which is on file with the minutes. There was discussion regarding the Local Group meeting held on September 20 to review ranking project ranking questions. Antonia, Harvey and Carl had reviewed questions, or attended previous meetings, and felt that the the system was a little overwhelming. It was concluded that Board members and staff would try to note and prioritize issues unique to the Southern District throughout the year and pass these on to Melissa for representation at future Local Working Group meetings.
- C. **District Manager's Report:** Kate went over her written report of updates on District projects and agreements, also on file with the minutes. 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. Also, the District received affirmation from RIDEM that State bridge-funding (\$15,000) would be available through June 30, 2018.

IV. Old Business

- A. **Annual Dinner, 2017:** Kate attended an Annual Dinner subcommittee meeting. The tentative schedule is: 4:30 Armory tours; 5:00 cocktails; 5:30 RIFCO business meeting; 6:00 dinner; 7:00 awards. The RI Association of Conservation Districts will be presenting an award and plaque to Rep. Carol McEntee. There was discussion of possible silent auction items. Tickets for the event are expected to cost \$30.

V. New Business

- A. **Geese abatement:** Kate reported that Bill McCusker is interested in continuing the project and they will be pursuing sources of funding.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25PM

The next meeting will be held on **October 23, 2017, at 4 PM at the URI East Farm Master Gardener Field House.**

Minutes submitted by Carl Sawyer, Secretary, SRICD

