

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District
2490 Main Road - Tiverton, RI 02878 - Phone (401) 816-5667

ERICD Board Meeting
March 13, 2012
7:00 PM

Present were: Chair Walter Elwell; Directors Ron Mucci and Emerson Wildes; Associate Directors Norma Elwell and Steve Horowitz. District Manager Jessica Blackledge; Melissa Hayden, NRCS; Ramona LeBlanc, State Conservation Committee;

Executive Session called to order at 7:00.

A motion was made to accept NRCS's proposal to establish a field office at ERICD: Emerson/Ron; unanimous.

A motion was made to create a benefit package for ERICD that includes paid holidays for administrative as well as program hours, and full benefits (holidays, vacation, sick leave and 5% contribution to either health insurance or retirement) for billable program hours.

Chair Walter Elwell called the general meeting to order at 7:16.

I. Minutes: Minutes of the February 14, 2012 meeting were declared accepted as printed.

II. Financial Report: Declared accepted as printed.

III. Project Update

A. Geese: Four workshops have been held, one was a general training on egg oiling and three were aimed at agricultural producers. One NRCS application was submitted. One egg oiling session will be held in each District. Jessie will be partnering with Roger Williams Park in their geese abatement program and will hold one of the training sessions there.

B. Outreach: Second round of workshops is scheduled. ERICD's will be held at Portsmouth Free Public Library on 2/28. Follow-up has begun with attendees. Jessie will be working at NRCS one day per week to complete contract reviews.

C. Waterbodies: Prioritized list of waterways was submitted to NRCS on 2/29/2012. They will select those waterways to be assessed by March 31, 2012

D. Equipment Bank: Becca continues to make site visits and conduct phone interviews with farmers. She is also researching the cost to purchase certain equipment.

IV. NRCS Report: Written DC report distributed. Second round of EQIP funding is due to be obligated by 3/15. ERICD has 19 EQIP applications and 2 CSP applications to date. Melissa has begun a personal Outreach to farmers in Bristol county. Eastern Regional Conservation Leonard Jordan will be in RI April 3-5,

III. Old Business:

- A. Elections for elected positions will be held at April Board meeting. Press releases were sent to area media outlets. Flyers will be posted in town halls.

IV. New Business:

- A. Bills: A motion was made to pay current bills: Emerson/Ron; unanimous.
- B. Ag Council: Emerson will attend 3/15 meeting.

V. Reports:

- A. District Manager: Jessie summarized use of petty cash account for preceding month. A packet from the House Finance Committee was submitted for FY 2013 funding.
- B. Chair: Walter will keep Board informed of Ag Day date at State House
- C. Directors:
 - Emerson Wildes attended Meeting with DEM Director Janet Coit. She was very supportive of geese abatement agreement.
 - Ron attended a soil and nutrition workshop at Wishing Stone Farm.
- D. SCC: Meeting to be held on March 14.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

