

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District

17 Smith Avenue - Greenville, RI 02828 - Phone (401) 949-1480 - Fax (401) 949-4436

MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2012

Vice-Chair Gene Pepper called meeting to order at 7:09.

Present: Vice-Chair: Eugene Pepper; Directors: Keith Rogers, Dick Went, Louis Vinagro III; Associate Directors: Jean Lynch, Norm Hammond; District Manager: Gina DeMarco, Ramona LeBlanc, State Conservation Committee.

1. Minutes:

- A motion was made to accept the minutes of the October and November 2011 meetings: Dick/Louie; unanimous.

2. Treasurer's Report:

- A motion was made that the report is on file: Dick/Louie; unanimous.

3. Old Business:

A. SRWEP:

- Gina reported that studies show high phosphorus levels in the regulating reservoir. A meeting will be held on January 5 to discuss how to address.
- With an agricultural theme for current year the business bulletin series will be aimed at agricultural producers. Tentative topics include nutrient loading, integrated pest management (IPM), soil erosion.
- Get Wet! program is underway for 3rd year at Scituate High School.
- Swamp Meadow Theater will create a play for 2012 Water Festival.
- Elementary school presentations are being scheduled.
- 2012 Calendar has been distributed.

B. NRCS Agreements:

1. Ag Inventory:

- Updates for Glocester and Scituate have been completed.
- Kate will be completing a 3 day GIS training the week of 1/9/12.

2. Outreach:

- Workshops held in December were well attended. Kate is conducting follow-up with NRI attendees.

- The next round of workshops will be hosted by area farms and will take place in Feb/March.
- Ag Techs are also completing follow-up for NRCS on CAP files.

3. EWP:

- SCC has been asked to act as sponsor on two EWP projects. Debris removal has been funded for 1) the Pocasset River and 2) the Wood, Pawcatuck and Queen Rivers.

4. Waterways and Geese agreements are being focusing in ERICD.

5. SCC hired an engineering tech and a PT engineer to work on Engineering agreement.

4. New Business:

A. Building:

- A new fuel tank is being installed on 1/5 or 6.
- Insulation is being installed the week of 1/9 and will be funded by SCC.
- Gene asked to have a discussion of front walkway added to February agenda.

B. Seedling Sale:

- Event will be held on April 20 and 21.

C. Board Elections:

- Gene accepted Keith Rogers letter of resignation with regret.
- A motion was made to appoint Jean Lynch pending completion of nomination papers: Dick/Louie; unanimous.
- An election will be held on date of next Board meeting for Louie's seat since his term expired in November.

5. Reports:

A. Chair: Not present.

B. SCC: Next meeting is 1/18/12 at 9:15.

C. NRCS: Not present.

D. RC&D: Not present.

E. RDC: Not present.

F. RIFCO:

- Bill Fortune was elected President and Trish Wright Vice President.
- Woodland owners workshops will be held 1/28-2/18.

G. RIACD:

- Equipment Bank feasibility study is progressing. Over 80 responses to online survey have been received.
- Ag Partnership steering committee will be developing a budget for the \$100,000 Van Buren grant recently received.
- Dick is submitting a resolution to allow NRCS to obligate WHIP funding to public lands when it is part of a larger initiative.
- NE Association Presidents are requesting a NE Watershed initiative to create more availability of funding for watersheds, estuaries and bays.

H. RIRLA:

- Association is examining question of what defines “RI Raised.”

I. Envirothon:

- Pete Stetson is writing a grant request to obtain a GPS unit for each participating school.
- Fundraising breakfast will be held on 4/7.
- A motion was made to issue a check for \$500 that is budgeted for Envirothon contribution: Dick/Louie; unanimous.

6. Other:

- A motion was made to pay an installment of \$200 to NACD for annual dues with an additional payment next quarter. Balance will be paid at end of fiscal year, pending availability of funds: Dick/Louie; unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.