



SRICD Board Meeting
Monday, June 10, 2024, 6:00pm
Fresh Harvest Kitchen
9 East Ave Unit F
Westerly, RI 02891

Meeting Minutes June 10, 2024

Call to Order Phil Moreschi called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Attendees: Clarkson Collins; Phil Moreschi; Katy Keiffer; Jameson Long; Gina Fuller; Christine Cooke

Minutes prepared by: Christine Cooke

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

K. Keiffer made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the March 27, 2024 meeting. C. Collins seconded. No discussion. Meetings were approved unanimously.

3. Reports

3a. RI USDA- NRCS State Conservationist

J. Long reported that they are focused on ongoing outreach for the contracting period. An offer has been extended to a staff archaeologist. Funding for the oyster gear cycling program has been extended. Three rounds of funding will be available for this year. He reported out on the outreach event in Richmond hosted by SRICD with Rep. Megan Cotter which highlighted forestry work for trees impacted by spongy moth, pollinator planting and general NRCS programs. Megan Cotter is hoping to have another similar event in Exeter.

The 2025 field season starts soon for landowners that did not meet the application deadline; oyster field season and deployments start this Fall.

3b. Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts

Phil M. reported that Molly Allard is working on an audit.

3c. RI State Conservation Committee

G. Fuller reported that a Legislative Meet and Greet is scheduled at Greenvale Vineyards on Oct. 2 and it is our responsibility to get our district's legislators there.

Also, the district should soon receive confirmation that the increased budget has been approved which will allot \$50K to each district and \$30K to the state conservation committee.



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3d. District Manager Report *G. Fuller*

Agreements Update: **G. Fuller** *Molly Adams*

- The district was able to sign up quite a few clients at the RCPP event at Venice Restaurant; an oyster grower applied but were found to be ineligible due to the fact that “water” producers are not included, which is being worked out.
- SRICD fully allocated all the district’s allotted monies for People’s Garden grants for the first time.
- Narragansett EWP was closed out.
- PL 566 will have two public meetings this coming week, one in Exeter, RI and one in Sterling, CT.
- G. Fuller attended a meeting with Pooh V., Chris Fox and Darryl Moore to discuss the watershed model in relation to the PL 566. C. Clarkson recommended that someone at URI Oceanography potentially hold a modeling session.

i. **Grants – G. Fuller**

G. Fuller reported that the National Coastal Resiliency Fund invited us to apply for Westerly Main Street funds up to \$8 million. She recommended the applicant be the Town of Westerly. The application is due in July. The Westerly project is underway with the Walking Tour on June 4 and design workshops on June 11. River Day will be held on June 15 at 107 Main Street.

STEM Mentoring is getting \$40k for their program from the RI Foundation but we are planning for this to be the last year of SRICD overseeing the program. Mystic Aquarium will be taking the program on, and we hope to continue to partner with them. The Westerly Recreation Department has taken over the United Way program. There will be a new RFP and SRICD will no longer oversee the program as we expect Westerly Public Schools and/or the Town of Westerly’s Recreation department will be involved.

ii. **Fresh Harvest Kitchen Update – G. Fuller**

G. Fuller reported that DEM Shellfish is coming for the summer inspection as well as a representative from the RI Young Fisherman’s Association. The district will be hosting a tasting and cooking demonstration with Morsel Dumplings on June 28. We are considering office space next door to the Fresh Harvest Kitchen. We have new equipment, and the oven is ready to go. The district held a highly successful quahog week event in May. Dune Brothers will be back in the winter. The district is in conversations with Mike Pugliese from the Fishery in Westerly for potential partnership opportunities.



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iii. Financial Report – G. Fuller

G. Fuller is working with Molly Allard.

3e. Other Board Reports

K. Keiffer and G. Fuller had a great conversation with Congressman Gabe Amo on the Resiliency Radio Hour. G. Fuller and R. Fuka met with the South County Museum which is associated with agriculture.

4. Old Business - None

5. New Business

NACD's 2024 Summer Conservation Forum will be held in Boston, MA, August 9-14, 2024. K. Keiffer and C. Collins expressed interest in attending.

6. Future Agenda Items - None

7. Adjournment

Phil M. made the motion to adjourn. C. Collins seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Minutes approved by:

Clarkson A. Collins
Clarkson Collins, Secretary

Aug 26, 2024
Date