



## Minutes August 28, 2023

### 1. Call to Order

Phil Moreschi called the meeting to order at 6:18 pm. Gina Fuller, Ryan Corvese, Jameson Long, Clarkson Collins, K. Keiffer and Phil Moreschi present.

### 2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2023 CC and KK, 3-0

K. Kieffer made a motion to accept the minutes of July 31, 2023 meeting, C. Collins seconded the motion, the motion passed 3-0

### 3. Reports

#### 3a. RI USDA- NRCS State Conservationist- Jameson Long

State Conservationist Phou Vongkhamdy will attend SRICD's September meeting

J. Long reported:

- NRCS Office Updates:
  - o Two new District employees started Monday 8/21/23
  - ☑ Meghan Seeley and Ryan Corvese
- EQIP, AMA, Applications for 2023 Update
  - o Right now Southern has obligated 46 contracts for 2023 = \$1,499,668.
  - o Most popular practices:
    - ☑ Rare or Declining habitat (oysters 643) 36
    - ☑ Forest thinning (666)- 31
    - ☑ Cover Crop (340)- 24
    - ☑ Mulching (484)- 18
    - ☑ Critical Area Planting (342)- 13
    - ☑ Forest Trails (655)- 13
- No-Till Seed Drill
  - o Possible agreement with the District



**Southern Rhode Island  
Conservation District**

**Monday, August 28, 2023 6:00pm**

Fresh Harvest Kitchen

9 East Ave Unit F

Westerly, RI 02891

- Wildfire Projects DEM
  - o Initial stages of working with DEM on a joint effort for projects involving forest fires
  - o Dry hydrant standard designs
  - o Burn Plans
- 2024 Contracting
  - o Starting field work for next years cycle, outreach ideas
- Southern District practices completed since 6/22/2023:
  - Total money paid out \$85,663.80
  - 0 CSP Contacts
  - 1 AMA Contract
  - 18 EQIP Contracts -1 RCPP

**3b. RI Association of Conservation Districts**      Cassius Spears Sr.      None

**3c. RI State Conservation Committee**      Phil Moreschi to check with Kate Sayles about last RISCC meeting

**3d. District Manager Gina Fuller provided the following updates**

**i.      Agreements Update**

- IRA agreement drafting final agreement with NRCS, will support 3 FTE for 4 years, plus district manager time, and additional staff time in year 5. Includes outreach, planning, and demonstrations of EQIP and CSP climate smart practices. Also include purchase of no-till seed drill and other equipment and supplies needed to conduct demonstration projects.
- AT 535 annual amendment in progress will support 0.5FTE per district
- NACD TA staff currently working on 2022, G. Fuller is drafting application for RIACD for TA 2023
- RCPP Implementation will be completed by Oct 1
- Outreach 3.0 planning for summer farm tours
- People's Garden SRICD still has funds for 2023 available for gardens, RISCC is starting the update for the final year of the agreement.
- PL 566 planning continues, Exeter RI and Sterling CT have been added hydrological model almost complete.
- Narragansett EWP SRICD/RIACD applied for one year no cost extension. Certified letter sent to landowners, no response to date.,

**ii.      Grants**



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- LASA funds have been received
  - United Way Summer Learning Program camp ends next week
  - Mystic STEM Mentoring RI continue to seek funding for next year and build Executive Board capacity
  - RIDEM Specialty Crop Grant: SRICD is preparing for fall demonstrations.
  - Resilient Riverfront Renewal Westerly: SWIG-Westerly Main St., RI Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) MRP with Westerly : project ongoing, preparing for next round of MRP and seeking other funding sources. Preparing to take concept designs to landowners. Ritter property is in permitting with construction planned for the fall.
- iii. **Fresh Harvest Kitchen Update** Jose is settled in, HACCP certification complete, and Food Safety Training scheduled. Kitchen is open 6 days a week on a regular schedule. New fishers are coming and we are applying for a federal dealers permit.
- iv. **Main Street Site Visit** K. Keiffer reported on a successful site visit with Senator Jack Reed, NBEP, EPA, landowners, and members of the Westerly Town Council for the Resilient Riverfront Renewal project.

Sept 19 Storwater days

Taco Tuesday tomorrow at Fresh Harvest Kitchen

RIDEM visit FHK 2pm Wed

### 3e. Other Board Reports

### 4. Old Business

4a. Employee Health Benefit update. G. Fuller updated the Board on the quotes from Shuster. Staff can get better rates on exchange, looking at other option

4b. Employee retirement Benefit discussion/action, G. Fuller updated the Board that she is still exploring options.

4c. Employee Update . G. Fuller updated the Board on new employees Meghan Seeley and Ryan Corvese.

5. New Business None

6. Future Agenda Items None

### 7. Adjournment

K. Kieffer made a motion to adjourn at 7.33pm, C. Clarkson seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting minutes approved.

*Clarkson A. Collins*

10/2/23

Clarkson Collins, Secretary

DATE 10/02/23