



SRICD Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 15, 11:00 am
Fresh Harvest Kitchen
9 East Ave Unit F
Westerly, RI 02891

Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2024

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

Minutes prepared by: Christine Cooke

1. Call to Order

Phil M. called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

Phil M. motioned to accept the minutes of the September 9 meeting. Katy K. seconded with slight corrections which were noted on the hard copy (two vs. three members to elect and the word not changed to now). The motion passed unanimously.

3. Reports

3a. RI USDA- NRCS State Conservationist

Gina F. reported that the current application closed and they are currently ranking applications.

3b. RI Association of Conservation Districts

Phil M. reported that they are going through the audit and trying to get Molly Allard permission to access the bank account. Gina F. put forward an idea to hire someone part-time with an accounting background to do some of the accounting for the RIACD agreements and for SRICD/Fresh Harvest Kitchen. Cassius S. will be bringing up the idea at the next RIACD meeting.

3c. RI State Conservation Committee

Kate S. is not attending the meetings. Gina F. recommended that we nominate someone from our board, potentially Ashlee Barrett, once she is officially voted in as an SRICD board member. SRICD attendance at the Nov. 2 annual conservation dinner was discussed. Phil M. shared that he attended the legislative meet and greet in Portsmouth. Gina F. shared a key issue on the agenda of the Rhode Island Farm Bureau meeting is the Farm Tax exemption and resale tax from the Rhode Island Department of Taxation and the impacts to the farm stands.



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3d. District Manager

i. **Agreements Update**

Gina F. reported that we received RI Foundation funding of \$50 K. No word on the national coastal resiliency funding. The district and the town of Westerly received a Bridge Builder award from SNEP. SRICD is assisting the Town of Westerly with the urban tree canopy grant and technical assistance for tree planting on Main Street. On behalf of the SRICD, she submitted the NACD application on which we are waiting to hear back. SRICD received the urban agriculture grant of \$60K for urban areas within SRICD, primarily West Warwick, to assist underserved communities. Gina F. has been asked to sit on a municipal committee.

ii. **Grants**

No report. Tabled until next meeting.

iii. **Fresh Harvest Kitchen Update**

No report. Tabled until next meeting.

iv. **Financial Report**

No report. Tabled until next meeting.

3e. Other Board Reports

4. Old Business

Employee Handbook Updates.

No report. Tabled until next meeting.

5. New Business

Farm of the Year - Greene Company

The SRICD farm of the year will be honored at the annual dinner. The planners recommended them. Phil M. motioned to accept Gina F.'s nomination for the Greene Company to receive the SRICD award for Farm of the Year. Clark C. seconded. The motion approved unanimously.

Report of the nominating Committee

Phil M. made a motion to nominate Ashlee Barrett as a board member to SRICD for a three-year term. Ashlee B. collected the required signatures to present to the State Conservation Committee at their next meeting on November 21.

Phil M. made a motion to nominate Clarkson C. as a SRICD board member for a two-year term. Clark will collect the required signatures and submit to the State Conservation Committee at their next



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meeting on November 21. The motion was seconded by Katy K. The motion was approved unanimously.

Phil M. recommended per the guidance that two members run for re-election to the board: Katy K. for a three-year term and Phil M. for a two-year term with an election to be held on November 12 at Fresh Harvest Kitchen. Phil M. made a motion seconded by Clark C. The motion was approved unanimously.

Phil M. requested that we publish a notice about the election as a paid ad in the newspapers in the district no sooner than Oct. 29 but no later than Nov. 4. The election will take place at the Fresh Harvest Kitchen from 9 am – 7 pm. Phil M. made a motion to appoint Christine C. and Gina F. to serve as election tellers. Katy K. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A discussion ensued about recruiting diverse associate board members including folks with an urban agricultural background. Gina F. will ask the planners for ideas for folks in Kent and Washington County.

NOAA written comment period on CRMC

Gina F. shared that we are in the 10-year review period for CRMC. NOAA is looking for public comment by October 25. Gina F. expressed her concern about members being political versus having technical assistance.

6. Future Agenda Items

Review enabling legislation and how it relates to our overall involvement in state government.

7. Adjournment

Phil M. motioned to adjourn at 12:38 pm. Katy K. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Clarkson A. Collins

Minutes approved by Clarkson Collins

11/18/24