

Monday, June 26, 2023 6:00pm

Fresh Harvest Kitchen

9 East Ave Unit F

Westerly, RI 02891



MINUTES

June 26, 2023

1. Call to Order

P. Moreschi called the meeting to order at 6:07pm. P. Moreschi, C. Spears Sr., C. Collins, K. Kieffer, J. Long, and G. Fuller present.

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

K. Kieffer made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2023 meeting, C. Collins made the 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Reports

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

- Site Visits with Regional Conservationist Jon Hubbert
- EQIP, AMA, Applications for 2023 Update

Right now Southern has obligated 46 contracts for 2023 = \$1,499,668.

Applications needing review= 16

Applications needing Contracts signed = 3

Total Applications selected for funding = 64

No-Till Seed Drill

Possible agreement with the District. Farmers are unable to access a variety of NRCS practices due to the lack of no-till seeders/seed drills.

Wildfire Projects DEM

Initial stages of working with DEM on a joint effort for projects involving forest fires

- 2024 Contracting

Starting field work for next years cycle, outreach ideas

Southern District practices completed since 5/22/2023:

-Total money paid out \$85,804

-0 CSP Contacts

-0 AMA Contract

-14 EQIP Contracts



Monday, June 26, 2023 6:00pm

Fresh Harvest Kitchen

9 East Ave Unit F

Westerly, RI 02891

3b. RI Association of Conservation Districts Cassius Spears Sr.

C. Spears asked for Board members to attend summer meeting. Need someone from SRICD to serve as a board member for RIACD to replace Harvey. If no one is interested, P. Moreschi offered to volunteer to serve on the board. Would like to determine who that individual is at our meeting on the 26th.

NACD needs a treasurer in order to be compliant with NRCS/USDA requirements to get funding.

Phou would really like to see the district represented in ND this July if at all possible. Same for Regional meeting in Maine in September.

3c. RI State Conservation Committee Phil Moreschi and Kate Sayles

Farmland Preservation funding at the General Assembly was approved as was the Conservation District increase.

3d. District Manager

G.Fuller provided updates to grants and agreements. All grants and agreements are on track. SRICD and RIDOT have been engaged on a new project in Wakefield. Fresh Harvest Kitchen is running, new General Manager is working well has completed HACCP training and RIDOH recently passed FHK annual inspection.

Main Street Site Visit June 28th 3:30pm We will give a very brief slide presentation before we start the tour.

We will meet in the Town Hall and then walk the northern end of project site and wrap up around 5pm.

Representatives of the following groups will be there:

NBEP (4 staff)

EPA (1 EPA HQ person, ~2 EPA Region)

Puget Sound Partnership (a sister program to NBEP -one person)

Senator Reed and his staff

Town of Westerly (staff and elected)

Wayne Ritter (property owner 107 Main St)

SRICD

Fuss and O'Neill

Link to the project storyboard:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/89c64c24ae3146fdaeca8067b6c0e3f7>

Monday, June 26, 2023 6:00pm

Fresh Harvest Kitchen

9 East Ave Unit F

Westerly, RI 02891



3e. Other Board Reports

NONE

4. Old Business

4a. G. Fuller updated the Board regarding Employee Health Benefits, options have been sent to employees must have 5 full time employees sign up for current quote.

4b. FY 2024 Budget Approval

C. Collins made a motion to accept the proposed FY 24 budget C. Spears Jr. made the 2nd. Discussion ensued, proposed employee Pay Scale and annual raises to be approved as part of budget. Motion passed 4-0.

5. New Business

G. Fuller asked the Board for consensus to explore options for an employee Retirement plan

Phil's nomination to the RIACD to be discussed next meeting.

6. Future Agenda Items

New board members

7. Adjournment

Made a C. Spears motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm, K. Keiffer made the 2nd, Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting minutes approved.

Clarkson A Collins

8/28/2023

Clarkson Collins, Secretary

DATE 08/28/23