



Monday, April 24, 2023 6:00pm

Fresh Harvest Kitchen

9 East Ave Unit F

Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes April 24, 2023

1. Call to Order

Phil Moreschi called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Katy Keiffer, Clark Collins, Gina Fuller and Kate Sayles were present.

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2023 Clark Collins made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 30, 2023 meeting, K. Keiffer seconded the motion, no discussion, motion passed 3-0.

No meeting in February and no quorum in March

3. Reports

3a. RI USDA- NRCS State Conservationist- Jameson Long submitted a report electronically.

SRICD MEETING – NRCS Updates – 4/24/2023

- EQIP, AMA, Applications for 2023 Update
 - Right now Southern has 18 applications Pre Approved for funding and being reviewed
 - Pre Approval cost amount = \$1,239,331.80
 - 83 applications Pre Approved for all Districts
 - 73 applications for Northern and Eastern = \$837,816.22
 - Pre Approval fund pools:
 - EQIP CIC
 - EQIP Working Lands
 - Organic Transitioning
 - AMA General
 - CSP Ag land Classic and BFR
 - CSP NIPF
 - EQIP CAP
 - EQIP SDFR
 - EQIP Source Water
 - RI NWQI
- Southern Applications Pending Funding:
 - -EQIP: 48 applications
 - -AMA: 31 applications
 - -CSP: 3 Applications
- PreApprovals started with 4 oyster contracts and are pending obligation and have been followed by 14 other applications that have all been submitted for review.

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- IRA funding application deadline was April 21. The rest of applications will be selected for Pre Approval starting this week based on rankings
- New Positions:
 - There will be positions posted for Business Tools specialist, and RCPP Coordinator
 - Pooh discussed interest in hiring 3 Soil Con Techs for each district.
 - Position for Northern District conservationist is pending a panel of applicants to be returned.
- Southern District practices completed since 3/30/2023:
 - Total money paid out \$45,837.85
 - 0 CSP Contacts
 - 0 AMA Contract
 - 17 EQIP Contracts

3b. RI Association of Conservation Districts

Cassius Spears Sr.

P. Moreschi reported the RIACD requested a formal resignation letter from Harvey Buford. G. Fuller and K. Keiffer reported on the Annual Meeting in New Orleans., Spring Fly-In G. Fuller reported Cassius Spears attend the NACD Spring _fly event in DC. Made request to Congressional delegation to support NACD priorities as well as specific support to the RI PL 566 programs, P. Moreschi reported on last RIACD meeting. G. Fuller reported that she, Cassius Spears, Dick Went, and Maria Mack attended a Round Table with Senator Reed along with NRCS and others involved in agriculture in RI. G. Fuller reported that SRICD and Mystic submitted a Congressional Appropriations request for Congressionally directed spending to Senator's Reed and Whitehouse (\$650,000 for Fresh Harvest Kitchen and Mystic STEM Mentoring career development program).

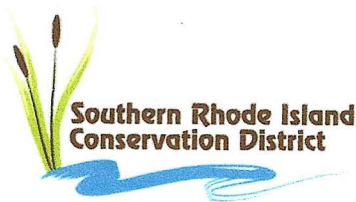
3c. RI State Conservation Committee

Phil Moreschi and Kate Sayles

P. Moreschi and K. Sayles reported out on the lack of funding in the Green Bond for farmland preservation. Discussion ensued on impacts and proposed actions. G. Fuller and K. Sayles reported on the bill funding request at the General Assembly for appropriations for the Districts, meeting with NRCS, and other updates. Ocean Hour Racing event. Bill numbers and hearing dates will be forwarded as they become available.

3d. District Manager Gina Fuller

- i. **Agreements Update** G. Fuller reported out that the current NRCS agreements: AT 535, RCPP Farm Plan Implementation, Outreach, People's Garden, are currently on track and were invoiced at the end of the quarter. Working with other district managers and NRCS to establish next year's agreements. NRCS PL 566 is still in the planning stage, Sterling CT will be signing on as a sponsor at their May meeting and NRCS has asked SRICD to reach out again to Exeter, West Greenwich and Coventry. NACD TA 2021 is closed and we recently started work on NACD TA 2022, working with be heavily focused on CSP and COTA. RCPP Stormwater has one application and we will be meeting with another potential landowner. SRICD continues to try to connect with property owners for the Narragansett EWP.



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- ii. RIDOT Stormwater invoice was submitted to RISCC and RIDOT for payment (\$25,000). Payment includes \$5000 to SRICD for administration and project management and \$20,000 in engineering fees for Westerly Resilient Riverfront Renewal Project. The \$25,000 was used as match for the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP) grant of \$75,000. SRICD is working the RIDOT to establish a charter for the next phases (2) of the project. RIDOT, SRICD and the City of Warwick have also initiated a project charter for Oakland Beach.
- iii. **Grants**, NBEP grant for Westerly is Complete and has been officially closed with NBEP. SRICD has started hiring, planning, and professional development for the United Way Summer Learning Program, G. Fuller participated as a panelist in one professional development about leveraging partnerships for high quality camp programs. SRICD has deployed the soil steamer purchased by funds from the RIDEM Specialty Crop Grant and is working on a soil health guide for post steamer use. We plan to deploy the steamer on multiple farms after the growing season. Work has begun on the SWIG and RI Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) MRP Action grant for the Westerly Resilient Riverfront Renewal project. Westerly afterschool programs and Mystic STEM Mentoring RI statewide program are in full swing.
- iv. Financial Report- No report

3e. Other Board Reports NONE

4. Old Business

Fresh Harvest Kitchen Update G. Fuller provided an update on the Fresh Harvest Kitchen, job description in is progress and will be posted. G. Fuller has interviewed several potential candidates but has not found a good fit. Farmer and fishermen are getting ready for their seasons and have started reaching out to the FHK. FHK is participating in Sugar Kelp Days and Quahog Week.

5. New Business

Board discussed reviewing SRICD current Strategic Plan, G. Fuller suggested the plan be updated to align with the NCPP strategic plan and our current projects with a focus on municipal resiliency and food system resiliency to align with current projects.

6. Future Agenda Items

NONE

7. Adjournment

Clark Collins made a motion to adjourn; K. Kieffer seconded the motion, meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

Meeting minutes approved.

6/12/23

Clarkson Collins, Secretary

DATE 06/12/23