



SRICD Board Meeting
Fresh Harvest Kitchen
9 East Ave Unit F
Westerly, RI 02891

Meeting Minutes August 26, 2024

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

Minutes prepared by: Christine Cooke

1. Call to Order

Phil M. called to order the meeting at 6:16 pm.

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

Clark C. moved to accept the minutes from the June 10, 2024 meeting. Katy K. seconded. Discussion of the audit ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Reports

3a. RI USDA- NRCS State Conservationist

Jameson's report was reviewed. The archeologist position was discussed and the agronomist/farm plan as well as the Farm Bureau. A new sign-up for Equip and CSP is now open through October 4.

3b. RI Association of Conservation Districts No update

3c. RI State Conservation Committee Phil Moreschi

- i. NACD 2024 Summer Meeting Report. Phil M. attended and went to Westport River Winery and AB Peacemaker Cranberry Farm and Bristol County Agricultural College tour.

G. Fuller reported that this year's conservation dinner will be Nov. 2 at Greenvale Vineyards. The legislative Meet and Greet will be at Greenvale Vineyards on Oct. 2. Board members should try and attend both. SRICD will be hosting the dinner in 2025. G. Fuller reminded us that we need to make an appointment of someone from SRICD to the state committee in November. Phil M. to follow up with Kate Sayles.



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3d. District Manager Report

Gina Fuller

i. **Agreements Update**

AT 535, NACD TA, RCPP Implementation, Outreach, RIDOT Stormwater, People's Garden, PL 566, Narragansett EWP, IRA

All agreements are on track. Gina F. reported on the progress on each agreement.

ii. **Grants**

SNEP_SOAR, National Coastal Resiliency Fund invitation to apply for Westerly Main Street, United Way Summer Learning Program, LASA, SWIG-Westerly Main St, Mystic STEM Mentoring RI, NACD TA 23

Gina F. reported on the status of each grant as well as the Bridge Builder Award SRICD is receiving and the recognition we received in the 41N Magazine. The United Way Summer Learning Program has ended for the year. The coordinator for the Mystic STEM Mentoring RI has moved on to another opportunity. The district was awarded an Urban Ag grant for FHK and resiliency work.

iii. **Fresh Harvest Kitchen Update**

Rich Fuka has moved on. Nastassja Netro and Kendra Steere have been hired. Nastassja is a chef and Kendra is assisting with the business aspect of the Fresh Harvest Kitchen. Oliver the oyster farmer is interested in renting the kitchen space.

iv. **Financial Report**

Gina F. provided the balance sheet and reported that we have a healthy fund balance and that we are in a good financial position. We will be expanding and adding an entrance from the Fresh Harvest Kitchen into the office space next door. The cost will be approximately \$25K and will be paid for out of the bank account vs. grants.

3e. Other Board Report

i. **Potential PL 566 Project – Watershed Management Plan for Aquaculture Water Quality Protection**

Phil M. to contact Denise regarding the watershed management plan.



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4. Old Business

Employee Handbook Update

G. Fuller has asked the board to review the handbook and she will work with Sara and Molly to make necessary updates

5. New Business

i. SRICD Staff Update

Jack DeJordy and Mike Giguere have both been hired as conservation planners/technicians for NRCS. Nastassja and Kendra have been hired at the Fresh Harvest Kitchen.

ii. Draft FY 24-2025 Budget

Clark C. moved to accept the proposed budget. Katy K. seconded. Discussion ensued. The budget appears to be in good shape for next year in terms of revenues and expenses. Electricity is the only wild card. Katy K. asked about the pay scale. The motion was accepted unanimously.

iii. Resolution for NACD 2024 Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant

Phil M. motioned to table until the next meeting.

6. Future Agenda Items

Appoint a new board member according to new process. Get a representative on the state committee from SRICD. Katy K. and Phil M. to follow up.

7. Adjournment

Katy K. motioned to adjourn at 7:47 pm. The motion was seconded by Clark C.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Moreschi", is written over a horizontal line.

Minutes approved by Phil Moreschi

A handwritten date "9/9/24" in blue ink is written above a horizontal line.

Date