

**Patriot Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.**  
**Minutes from Meeting of July 27, 2011**  
Held at the LELWD Offices 39 Ayer Road in Littleton, MA

Quorum was present. Meeting was called to order at 10:20 pm by President Joe Lawless.

**Attendance**

Directors present:

Dani Battle, community-at-large	Matthew Goode, Suffolk County Conserv. Distr
Bill Blanchard, Essex Conservation District	Liz McGuire, Middlesex County Conserv. Distr.
Joe Lawless, community-at-large	Rudy Medeiros, Norfolk County Farm Bureau

Also present were David Eggleton, Stephanie Wilsen, and Doris Wood. . Lisa Trotto was absent (expected due to personal circumstance), and Dwight Sipler was also absent.

**Minutes:** Minutes of 4/27/2011 were signed and accepted as written. **(MSVA Rudy/Joe)**

**Treasurer's report:** Balance is \$5135.36 (as of 7/12/11). Dani met with Karen Tine on 7/12 to update the accounts and print checks. Report was accepted as printed **(MSVA Matthew/Liz)**

**Correspondence:**

**NEARCD Conference:** Rudy: NEARCD fall conference will likely be 1 day and held at a location in NH. Topics will be RC&D's surviving, especially with 13 Councils remaining.  
Dani: Spoke to Rick DeMark regarding the fall meeting. He said that he wants to hold a conference call with all Councils specifically to talk about holding the meeting.

\*Rudy to return the \$500 check he is holding for the NERARCD

**Liability Insurance cancelled** – received a check from them for the balance of the policy.  
**D&O (Beehive)** insurance has been renewed and a new policy document was received.  
**Senator Brown** replied to everyone's letters, but contained vague wording.

**Old Business:**

**NEARCD Conference:** Updates from the NE RC&D Council have come from Gary Edwards via email summary.

**Website:** PayPal "DONATE" button is now online and working on the Patriot website.  
GoDaddy is now hosting the website and the domain names, and replaces Yahoo.

**Document Retention Policy:** Postpone discussion on this requested (by Dani) and granted; as she feels other matters are more pressing to the Council. Dani will keep all files until policy is finalized and adopted by the Board.

**Member organization Feedback:** None of note.

**Transition Committee Report:** Committee met twice, and helped Dani put together the priorities survey that the Council just took (online).

David: Does the Council want the Transition Committee to continue? Or turn into a core group of advisors for the ED (Dani)? He felt that:

1) Given the new resources issue, the people in the Council has are its main asset. We need a good committee structure so people can participate in and with their real interests and passions. Or:

2) Council choses to become more passive in its work, and scans for grants that will support the Council financially.

Joe: Transition is done. If core advisory committee is needed, then the current Executive Committee should serve as that group. (There were no objections to this suggestion, so this advisory function will be part of the Executive Committee role).

Rudy: Committees give recommendations, and do not act without the Council (Board) OK.

### **New Business:**

**Verizon account cancelled.** Patriot has a TracFone (cell), and the number is (978)-421-7152. It is a pay-as-you-go phone, and there are no monthly bills or commitments.

**Google for NonProfits:** Dani has signed up Patriot. She feels that being part of this service will assist Council with advertising, media out-reach, and grant opportunities. As Dani has not yet fully investigated the potentials and possible pit-falls of the Google services offered there, no action has been taken to enroll in them. She believes however, that this NPO/Google link will place a web-search listing for Patriot on the left-hand side of the Google search page for a relevant hit. This places the Patriot web-site link in a more prominent position, and may increase web traffic and Council interest.

**Election of New Board Members:** Joe has to appoint a nominating committee to develop slate. So appointed were Rudy, Liz, & Bill.

**Bylaws review:** The proposed changes are to be distributed among the entire Board and reviewed individually. A final draft will be mailed out for Council in October, prior to the Annual meeting.

**\*Meeting arranged for September 14<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)** to review bylaws as a group. Council decided to review the Executive Director job description (a draft submitted by Dani) at this meeting also.

**\*\*Dani to email all members & volunteers with a draft copy of both Bylaws and the ED job description – members will print their own copies - and provide feedback at the meeting.**

**Meeting space:** Send a thank you card and cookies to the LELWD for our appreciation in their continued allowance of their conference room for Council meetings. Doris volunteered to do this.

**Executive Director:** Review the position and responsibilities for this job. Dani had pulled together a draft position description for the ED position, using various online a written resources. One main issue that Dani encounters as the ED is her inability to sign checks. She suggested that the ED position be allowed to do this, perhaps up to a certain amount and/or with prior approval.

**\*Develop a financial policy to address signature authority on checks – Stephanie to work on, Liz to provide an outline they use\***

Everyone agreed to discuss these 3 matters further at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Survey results:** Strong results were indicated as highlighted in yellow. (This was generally 3 or more answers in agreement to the same question). Dani mentioned that as a Board member, the NARC&DC guidebook (provided to the Board in their Manual for Board Directors), suggest an input of 6-8 hours of individual time devoted to RC&D work. The following patterns emerged in the survey results as the most popular choices for Council project/work:

- Mass Envirothon support
- Horse Manure Management
- Food Production issues
- Search for grants and gift finances
- Catalog and supplement missing Council skills

Matthew: suggested keeping ties to NRCS.

Bill: said it is easier to attend the Council meetings if agriculture continues to be part of the focus of the Patriot Council.

David E: suggested and felt strongly about local food and food production. He explained that he would like to make a presentation to the Council about his background of thinking, and what his interests stem from.

(Council broke for lunch, and then viewed David's presentation).

**Presentation by David: Most Promising Paradigms.**

2 main paradigms (which are the core ideas of a culture) are:

- 1) Whole Place
- 2) Whole Person (body, mind, heart, spirit)

Together these will make a sustainable community.

High performance and inspired action comes from using people's strength, and making their weaknesses irrelevant.

Consumption is replacing "wholeness". Wealth has nothing to do with moving things forward, and is not the same thing as "riches". Wealth = Sustainability = means able to have a future.

"Everyone of us has all we need.

As we live a life of ease". Yellow Submarine by The Beatles

David and his work look to enhance intrapersonal and interpersonal relationships.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm

**Next meeting: September 14, 2011 in Littleton at the LELWD**

**SIGNATURES (2) FOR MINUTES:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Board member**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Board member**

**Meeting Dates for 2011** (falls on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month, unless in **bold**)

Date	Weekday	Time and Location
September 14	Wednesday	SPECIAL MEETING 10 am, LELWD
November 15	Wednesday	TBA

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