



Newsletter of Rhode Island Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

Spring / Summer 2005

Inside this issue:

<i>Do You Fish?</i>	1
<i>RI Dairy Co-op</i>	1
<i>ERT Programs</i>	2
<i>RC&D's ERT programs</i>	2
<i>Dry Hydrants</i>	3

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Do You Fish? New access Site on Beaver River



Left to right: John Mellow, Lawson Cary, Jim Martish, Al Truchon, Jay Boyer

Rhode Island Resource Conservation and Development Council (RI RC&D) partnered with the Town of Richmond and the Narragansett Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) to install and stabilize a new access site along Beaver River.

Beaver River is a pristine water source that provides a high quality trout stream habitat for native Brook Trout. In addition, the river is stocked with Rainbow, Brown, and Brook Trout. However, because of the slope of the stream bank and the erodibility of the soil, there was a large gully at the access of the river and the water quality was being impacted.

RI RC&D, TU, and the Town of Richmond teamed up to design and build a timber and stone step system that will provide access to the river.

This project has benefited the area in many ways. It stabilized the stream bank, enhanced access to the river and provided additional recreational benefits to the area. The project was also completed by utilizing natural materials.

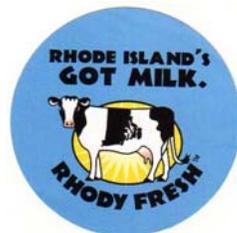
Overall, the access site is one that will be appreciated by the community and recreation enthusiasts for years to come.



Left to Right: Jim Martich, Al Truchon, Lawson Cary And in the background, former RI RC&D Coordinator.

Congratulations To The RI Dairy Co-op: Rhody Fresh a great Success

RC&D wishes to extend it's congratulations to the RI Dairy Cooperative for their outstanding success in the introduction and marketing of Rhody Fresh milk. RC&D is honored to have been able to provide facilitation and coordination services, including organizing meetings and helping secure technical and financial aid for the Co-op during this innovative endeavor, and Gerard Bertrand, a member of the Rural Development Council and a RI RC&D Council member, is also proud to have assisted with grant writing assistance. We are sure that success will follow success. Well Done!



Our Environmental Review Team has lots to offer

RC&D's Environmental Review Team Program has lots to offer communities. In the past, land use decisions were based on a variety of factors, not all of which led to the land being used properly. In part, this may have been due to lack of environmental awareness, the unavailability of natural resource data and/or the inability to interpret data accurately when it was available. RC&D's Environmental Review Team (ERT) can overcome these drawbacks.

ERT can provide communities with a level of technical expertise not commonly available locally. The Team possesses a broad based expertise and technical competence that is able to successfully address a host of environmental, planning, engineering, and development related issues, and tailor its findings to provide a solution to an individual community's needs. The team prides itself in providing an adaptable, flexible program that strives for excellence, accuracy and objectivity.

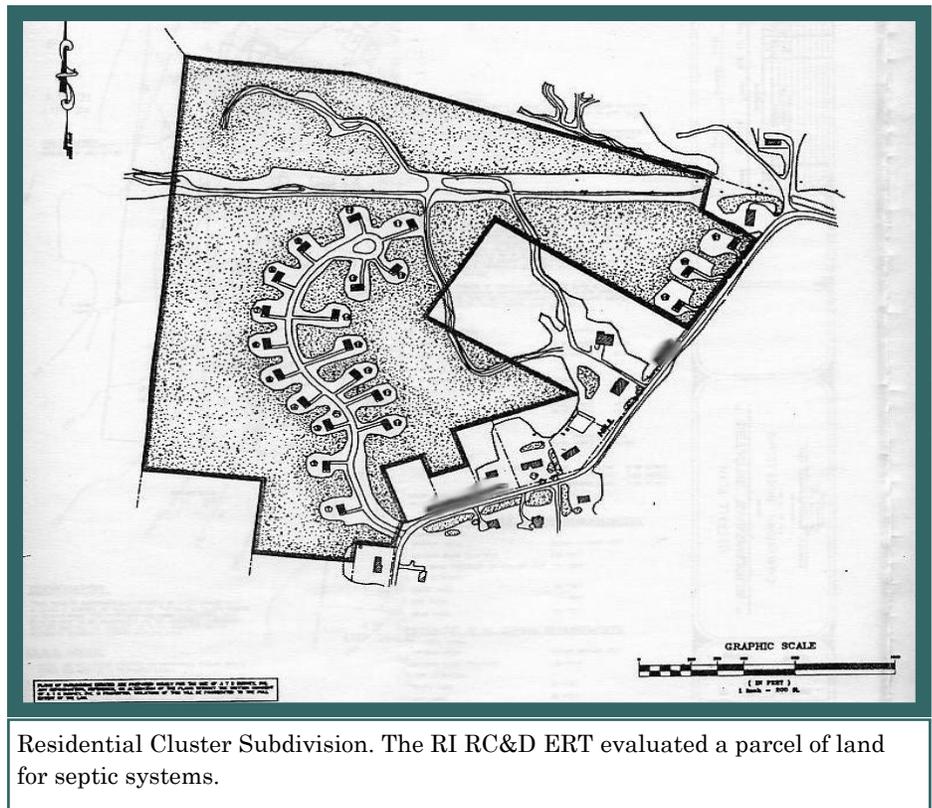
Considering Land Use Change? Why you should consider consulting our Environmental Review Team

RC&D's Environmental Review Team, (ERT) consists of geologists, biologists, historians, land planners and engineers who can help local officials to make long range planning decisions affecting the future of their communities with an objective resource analysis of sites being considered for land use change by addressing significant residential, industrial, commercial, recreational and open space proposals with the flexibility to meet their changing needs and priorities.

Specifically, ERT is able to offer:

- Data on the impact of different land uses on the existing environment.
- An increased awareness of what natural resources exist on the site.
- A site specific evaluation of its natural resources.
- Identification of possible alternatives to specific land use proposals.
- Access to information not readily available to local decision makers.
- Definitive data that citizens can depend on.
- And, because costly problems are identified before implementation, the ERT Program saves time and money.

It is important to emphasize that the goal of the ERT is to identify the existing resource base in terms of the



Residential Cluster Subdivision. The RI RC&D ERT evaluated a parcel of land for septic systems.

site under consideration, evaluate the significance of that resource base to the site and to its surrounding habitats and present communities with a report. The ERT report does not replace or compete with the work of private consultants who are employed to provide specific site designs or detailed solutions to existing or future problems of developmental design.

The ERT has conducted approximately thirty ERT studies for communities in Rhode Island (a listing of those community projects can be obtained upon request to the RC&D Office at (401) 822-8877.).

Do You Need A Dry Hydrant or Two in Your Community?

RI RC&D is providing assistance for the development of dry hydrants in communities that do not have pressurized water available when and where fire protection is needed. Many rural towns do not have strategically placed pressurized fire hydrants in their communities and must rely on farm ponds, small streams, and even swimming pools to provide water in the event of a fire. A dry hydrant is a non-pressurized, low-cost pipe system installed and connected to a source of water, usually a pond. Dry hydrants have strainer intakes that extend into the water body and a connecting fitting (shown at right) that is located above ground and is available to fire personnel /equipment at the edge of the abutting wood/vegetated area (or other suitable location). Dry hydrants are very similar to regular fire hydrants and are designed to provide water for pump trucks and tankers in all seasons. In the event of a fire, dry hydrants greatly reduce the hazards associated with setting up suction hoses that have been frozen over and access is

difficult and time consuming. Dry Hydrants can significantly reduce the set up time to obtain water in emergency situations.

RI RC&D has been assisting local fire departments to gain access to



available water by assisting them to strategically locate dry hydrants for use in their communities in case of fire. RI RC&D, with the help of National

Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), can provide engineering plans and standard drawings, develop necessary narratives and field work for wetland applications, and provide construction inspection and maintenance plans for dry hydrants installation in your community.

In addition to technical assistance, RI RC&D will also link town fire departments and fire districts with available funding sources for the construction of and materials for the dry hydrants as well.

Dry hydrants are an effective way to

suppress rural fire and will reduce the risks of injury, the loss of life and property, and may¹ reduce the cost of rural homeowner and business owner insurance premiums. ¹[Call your homeowners or fire insurance carrier for details.](#)

Dry Hydrant Projects

RI RC&D has been an active partner with towns and fire districts in 2004 with dry hydrants projects completed in West Greenwich, Exeter and Glocester. The RI RC&D in concert with its partnering agencies, USDA, NRCS, RI DEM Forestry, and DEM Wetlands are in the process of developing a comprehensive dry hydrant procedural kit. The kit will be introduced soon to rural communities at regional meeting occurring this fall. Little Compton and western Coventry are currently in an agreement with RI RC&D for assistance to place dry hydrants in their communities. The RI RC&D can also provide fire officials a planning tool to locate all dry hydrants utilizing Global Positioning Systems and plotting. For more information regarding dry hydrants, details about program offerings, or questions call the RI RC&D Office at (401) 822-8877.

New Growth For Visitor's Guide

In 2002, the RI RC&D published the first statewide guide to local RI farms in what has proven to be a popular and highly successful brochure entitled, *A Visitor's Guide to the Farms of Rhode Island*.

The fruits of this publication are still paying off, both for the farmers whose names and farm locations, are listed in the guidebook, but also for RC&D who initiated the idea of creating a guidebook for local farms. RC&D is pleased to announce that its guidebook will shortly be reissued as the, *Agricultural Guide*, as a result of a new partnership

created among RC&D, RIDEM Division of Agriculture, RICAPE and RI EDC Tourism. As the *Agricultural Guide*, the guidebook will now be available in many new locations, under the aegis of RI Tourism, along with their many other statewide tourism brochures.

This collaboration among our four agencies has allowed an increase in the available numbers of the guidebook from 15,000 to 60,000 copies, which will be distributed statewide. The newly named guidebook will also include several new features, including one on Farmer's Markets and availability of different types of

locally produced fresh food.

In regard to farmer's markets, a newly opened farmer's market, run by Louella Hill of Farm Fresh RI and called the Monday Market, will be introducing farm fresh products to downtown, Providence, this growing season. And another farmer's market, catering to state employees, will soon open, to promote healthy food choices. RC&D wishes both new ventures congratulations and much success, and feels strongly that mention of these endeavors in the new Farmer's Market section of the *Agricultural Guide* will contribute to their success.



Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

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We've Moved! Please note our new address and phone number.

RC&D Calendar of meeting dates

August 3, 2005

September 7, 2005

October 5, 2005

November 2, 2005

December 7, 2005

January 4, 2006

Monthly meetings are
scheduled for the first
Wednesday of each month
at 1:00 PM
USDA Conference Room 60
Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI
02886

Mission Statement

RI Resource Conservation
and Development Council,
Inc.

To fully utilize the human
and natural resources of
Rhode Island in order to
enhance the economic,
social, and environmental
conditions of the people of
this state.

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