



Connecticut RC&D

Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.
24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon CT 06066 * (860) 373-7408 *



John Guskowski, President
John Weedon, Vice President
Barbara Kelly, Treasurer
Margot Burns, Secretary

RC&D Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 9:30- 11:30am, February 24, 2015
deKoven House
27 Washington Street
Middletown, CT

Board Members in Attendance: John Guskowski, Judy Rondeau, Margot Burns, Aaron Budris, John S. Weedon, Sal DeCarli, Jim Costello, Lois Bruinooge, Barbara Kelly (late to meeting), Jim Sipperly (late to meeting)

Board Member not in attendance: Francis Pickering

Other Attendees: Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Elaine Sych, Janice Ehlymeyer, Mike O'Neill, Laura Brown

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 9:30am. Mark Nielsen has been named the board member for the new Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and Aaron Budris as alternate at large. Francis Pickering was approved as board member for Western Connecticut Council of Governments, his membership status is pending.

Secretaries Report:

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes as amended.

Motion made by: John Weedon

Seconded by: Jim Costello

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

Environmental Review Team (*Contact Elaine for distributed report*)

Motion: To authorize executive committee to grant/approve ERT requests on behalf of the Council.

Motion Made by: John Weedon

Seconded by: Lois Bruinooge

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

Discussion: Grant assistance should be separate.

ERT attending CLCC conference on March 21st.

Farm Energy Program: *(Contact Amanda for distributed Report)*

Discussion concerning maintaining full funding for Amanda's program until funding comes through for next fiscal year

Motion: To authorize the budgetary ad hoc committee to make recommendation regarding farm energy program shortfall to present to full council for electronic vote.

Motion made by: John Weedon

Seconded by: Margot Burns

Voted: Motion passed unanimously.

Soil Health

4th annual CT Agricultural Conference, March 14th, *Don't Treat Your Soil Like Dirt* to be held at the UConn Middlesex County Extension Center, Haddam. 9:30am – 4pm.

RCPP

Last Green Valley received a State Regional Conservation Partnership Grant. The role of RC&D is to reach out to the agricultural community.

Salmon River Watershed Association – Sponsorship

The fiscal sponsorship agreement from the Salmon River Watershed Association has been given to the RC&D lawyer to review.

Treasurer's Report:

Cathy Dismarais has been hired as RC&D's new bookkeeper. Barbara is working on budget development.

CT RC&D Organizational Details:

RC&D needs to continue to reach out to key partners such as CARPO, DEEP, Conservation Districts, and CCM

Budget and Staffing: On going need to look at existing programs and upcoming work; standards for program acceptance; and maintaining or cutting back on current expenses.

Motion: To extend current budget through June 30th.

Motion made by: Lois Bruinooge.

Seconded by: John Weedon.

Voted: Motion approved unanimously

Discussion: Eric Thomas request to reopen and finish 319 grant for bedding material. It was decided that unless a project has a champion that we do not have staff to start any new projects.

Work Plan Discussion:

Discussion regarding new grant ideas come with funding for consultants.

New Business:

Motion: To authorize Jim Sipperly to put CT RC&D forward to host NE RC&D meeting and to operate to at least break even on the event.

Motion made by: John Weedon

Seconded by: Jim Costello

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

Next Meeting Date: April 28th, 9:30-11:30am. Location to be determined.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:30am

DRAFT