



Connecticut RC&D

Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.
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John Guskowski, President
John Weedon, Vice President
Barbara Kelly, Treasurer
Margot Burns, Secretary

RC&D Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 28, 2015
9:30- 11:30am,
deKoven House
27 Washington Street
Middletown, CT

Board Members in Attendance: John Guskowski, John Weedon, Jim Costello, Jim Sipperly, Margot Burns, Aaron Budris, Barbara Kelly, Lois Bruinooge

Board Members not in attendance: Francis Pickering, Sal DeCarli

Other Attendees: Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Pat Young, Clark Chapin, Chuck Lee, Jim Hyde,

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m..

CT RC&D BUSINESS

Secretaries Report

Motion: To accept the April 28, 2015 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by: John Weedon

Seconded by: Jim Costello

Voted: Motion approved, Jim Sipperly abstained.

Discussion concerning amendments to August 28, 2015 meeting minutes, Barbara Kelly was not in attendance and Amanda asked that some changes she would provide concerning her programs be made.

Motion: To accept the August 28, 2015 meeting minutes as amended.

Motion made by: John Weedon

Seconded by: Jim Costello

Voted: Motion approved unanimously with corrections.

Financial Reporting:

Discussion concerned tabling the financial report until the bookkeeper could provide a full financial report instead of the balance sheet she provided.

Motion: To table the financial report until a full financial report is provided by the bookkeeper.

Motion made by: John Weedon

Seconded by: Jim Sipperly

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

Elaine Sych is still receiving her vacation pay. The external audit is underway and a report should be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Environmental Program:

Outreach has taken place to the entities with pending ERT's concerning transition and completion of the reports. There is a need to hire an Environmental Manager with the help of the executive committee. The executive director will be responsible for the environmental program to start. Amanda compiled and finalized the Ewen Farm Preserve for the Town of Orange ERT report.

Agricultural Program: (*Contact Amanda for distributed Report*)

(Jim Sipperly departed)

Proposed Program Structure

Besides her regular report Amanda discussed her handout *Agricultural Goals, Programs and Projects* which included current and potential funding descriptions for the Advocate Program, CT Farm Energy, New & Under Served Farmers and her Agricultural Resiliency Program.

Discussion concerned programs and goals for the environmental program which included: continuation of the ERT program, land trust and municipal outreach, and possible partnering with CACIWC.

Motion: To pursue funding from USDA Farm Service Agency for new and beginning farmers.

Motion made by: John Weedon

Seconded by: Lois Bruinooge

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

Partnerships

Salmon River Watershed Association –

Budget is all setup and fiscal sponsorship is going well. Focus on working with public works and engineering departments on the real costs of green infrastructure. Chloride levels are being monitored in 4 parts of the watershed. Discussion concerning 319 Grant for Gay City State Park and TMDL impaired stream.

RCPP –

Possible application discussed for 2nd year funding Little River Bacteria study.

(Aaron Budris departed)

Organizational Details

Executive Director search going well and have received 5 good candidate applications. The executive committee is hoping to have someone in the position by the end of the year. The Council still needs to scope for Environmental Manager and help for Amanda. We are still looking for office space.

Other Business

The New England RC&D Fall Conference 2015 was cancelled due to insufficient registration numbers.

Partner Updates

DEEP –

EPA focused on watershed based plans. Announcement to be made in Nov. about the availability of 319 grants, there should be a 2 month turn around. CT is hosting the April, 2016 NEIPCC conference in Hartford.

NRCS –

CT has a new State Conservationist, Tom Morgart. Tom was previously the State Conservationist in Maryland. Their soil health program has expanded to include research on soil health methodologies for more field crops, hay, and wood crops. Other areas of research include legacy nitrogen on agricultural fields and nutrient management transportation issues with other states.

Working Lands Alliance –

Holding annual luncheon Nov. 14th. Last Green Valley awarded annual path finder award.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

Discussion took place concerning the need of attendance requirements for council members in bylaws.

The next meeting will be held Dec. 15th from 9:30 – 11:30am. Tentatively to be held at deKoven House.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:55am.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot Burns
Secretary