



# Eastern Connecticut RC&D

Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.  
24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon CT 06066 \* (860) 373-7408 \* [www.easternrcd-ct.org](http://www.easternrcd-ct.org)

John Guskowski, President  
Lois Bruinooge, Vice President  
Barbara Kelly, Treasurer  
Margot Burns, Secretary

## Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council Meeting Minutes Monday, December 22, 2012 Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Ave. Vernon, CT

**Board Members in Attendance:** Barbara Kelly, Wini Olson, Jude Rondeau, Lois Bruinooge, Tom Seidel, Philip Chester, Tom O'Dell, , John Guskowski, Jim Larkin, Jim Gooch

**Board Member not in attendance:**, Margot Burns, , Lee Szurba, Paula Stahl

**Other Attendees:** Elaine Sych, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Sal DeCarli, Ray Covino

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 12:14pm

### **Secretaries Report:**

Comments were made about the meeting minutes being a bit too long. There was also a comment made to correct the minutes to reflect that there were 4 people interviewed, not that there were only 4 applicants.

**Motion:** to accept the meeting minutes from the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting as amended

**Motion Made by:** Tom O.

**Seconded by:** Lois

**Voted:** Motion passed

**Abstention:** Jim L., Jim G. Barbara K.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Reviewed financial statement, Profit/Loss Statement, and Project Accounting

**Motion:** to enter the financial statement into the records

**Motion Made by:** Tom O.

**Seconded by:** Tom S.

**Voted:** Motion passed

### **Environmental Review Team** (see attached memorandum)

ERT updated the board on recent and continuing projects and distributed a report of activities.

### **Project Manager Update**

Peat 319 is at a standstill. Our sub-contractors have not been paid for invoices submitted last April. The Project Manager will be resubmitting invoices per DEEP request this week.

Shoreline Protection BMP project has not been making very much headway. We have received invoices from F&O for work they have done on the project, but have not heard from Chuck Lee at DEEP that he is satisfied with there project, and that we can submit invoices. F&O has not been in contact with RC&D.

The Ag. Viability grant :VCP is underway. CME represented by John said that the project is continuing slowly. It seems that problems at the Brothers Processing Facility might be more management one rather than structural.



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## **Farm Energy Program** (see attached program update)

Amanda distributed the Farm Energy Program Update. An Ag. Viability grant was submitted to conduct a statewide Farm Energy Survey. Information was submitted to the Ag. Commissioner's Office the state Ag. Report to the Governor's Office.

## **Committee Reports**

### ***Agriculture***

Ag. Committee has not met since the last board meeting. There was a Ag. Viability grant submitted for a Advocate: Train the Trainer program.

**Motion:** to encourage the Ag. Committee to reprint the Livestock Guide with their remaining budget

**Motion Made by:** Wini O.

**Seconded by:** Phill C.

**Opposed by:** Barbra K.

**Voted:** Motion passed

There was a discussion about the governor, considering to sweep CIA Funds into the general fund. It was suggested that RC&D submit a letter from the organization to the appropriate officials stating our objection of the use of CIA funds in the General Budget.

**Motion:** to ask the legislatures not to use CIA Funds

**Motion Made by:** Tom O.

**Seconded by:** Barbra K.

**Voted:** Motion passed

### ***Greenways***

There was a presentation made to the Greenways Council about the survey that the Greenways Comittie had conducted. There was some brief discussion among the board about the status of the GPS units and some clarification was requested on what is required to use them.

### ***Sustainable Communities***

Sustainable Communities has not met since the last meeting. Some project iseas to be discussed at the next meeting are: Urban Forestry TD Green Streets Grant, I-Trees Software tools, developing an online CT school lunch recipe guide.

## **New Business**

### ***New Project Ideas***

The board was asked if they had any new project ideas. It was discussed as to how RC&D should go about finding new projects. The discussion was concluded with the suggestion that board members should look in their geographic regions for new grant ideas and bring some back to the board for the board to discuss. The project manager is also going to try to bring some ideas to the next meeting.

### ***RC&D Recognition/Image***

A brief discussion on the RC&D image was discussed. Some board members mentioned that they were concerned with RC&D fading in the public view, especially in possible partner organizations. It was also discussed whether or not RC&D should develop a "PR" policy, or have a branding campaign.



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## Old business

### *Strategic Planning Follow Up*

Executive committee met to discuss the Executive Director position. It was determined that the RC&D and ERT budget questions need to be resolved before they could move forward with the position. It was also determined that the Executive Director position description needed to be rewritten to fit the RC&D needs more than what the consultant had provided.

## **Partner Updates**

### *NRCS*

Lisa Coverdale is the new State Conservationist for the State of Connecticut. The board was updated on upcoming Farm Bill deadlines and programs.

### *The Last Green Valley*

TLGV has put out a RPS for two positions funded through a forestry grant that they are working on.

### *Council on Soil and Water*

Voted to not to seek funding with the ERT program for the upcoming budget year.

## **Adjourn**

Next meeting set for noon on February 25, 2012 in Vernon, CT at the Tolland Agricultural Center

**Motion:** to adjourn

**Motion Made by:** Phil

**Seconded by:** Jennifer

**Voted:** Motion passed