



# 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, February 25, 2012 Middlesex County Extension Center 1066 Saybrook Road, Haddam, CT

**Board Members in Attendance:** Barbara Kelly, Lois Bruinooge (Phone), John Guskowski, Margot Burns, , Jude Rondeau, Jennifer Kaufman

**Board Member not in attendance:** Lee Szurba, Paula Stahl, Wini Olson, Tom Seidel, Philip Chester, Tom O'Dell, Jim Larkin, Jim Gooch

**Other Attendees:** Elaine Sych, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Sal DeCarli, Amy Paterson (CLCC)

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 12:15pm

### **Secretaries Report:**

Corrections were requested to the minutes. Change Jennifers name to Judy, and change the date of December 22 to December 17.

**Motion:** to accept the meeting minutes from the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting as amended

**Motion Made by:** Barbara

**Seconded by:** Margot

**Voted:** Motion passed

**Abstention:** Margot, Jennifer

### **Treasurer's Report**

Reviewed Financial Statement, Profit/Loss Statement, and Project Accounting. Distribute fee for livestock guide 50/50 between Ag. Committee and Sustainable Committee. Fee is currently shown as coming completely from Ag. Committee budget.

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

**Motion Made by:** Margot

**Seconded by:** Lois

**Voted:** Motion passed

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

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

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

Amanda updated the board on recent and continuing projects and distributed a report of activities, and upcoming events.

### **Project Manager Update**

Peat 319 is at a standstill. Our sub-contractors have not been paid for invoices submitted last April. The Project Manager is in constant contact with DEP and Contractors to try to expedite the process. There was a general



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concurrency to write a letter to the DEEP to convey our frustration over the severe delay in payments, and how these delays impact our project. Discussion about fronting CDI \$2,500 to prevent further delay of the project.

**Motion:** to pay CDI \$2,500 out of unrestricted to keep the Peat 319 project

**Motion Made by:** Jennifer K.

**Seconded by:** Judy

**Voted:** Motion passed

Shoreline Protection BMP project has not been making very much headway. We have not heard from F&O for a few months, and heard no response from an email John sent the other day.

NRCS Soil health workshops. Ray is currently providing support and coordination getting the logistics of the workshop organized. Might need to talk with Ron Olsen (CT DoAG) and discuss restructuring the grant.

The Ag. Viability grant :VCP is underway. CME represented by John said that the project is continuing slowly. It seems that the Brothers Processing Facility is always 2 weeks away from getting their USDA Certification. Might need to talk with Ron Olsen (CT DoAG) and discuss restructuring the grant.

Advocate Conference: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Advocate Conference was held. Attendance was about the same as last year. The conference seemed to be a success with lots of positive feedback.

## 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.

### *Greenways*

Greenways Committee has not met since the last board meeting. The Greenways Committee would like to start working on some of the project identified in the annual plan: 1) Create a resource center for people interested in creating Greenways and Blueways, 2) Develop a list of organizations that assist with land and trail stewardship. The Committee would also like to assist the state with creating a State Greenway Plan similar to the one that Massachusetts developed.

### *Sustainable Communities*

Using Sustainable Communities funds for possible projects at TAC. Some examples of those projects could be: Ethnobotanical Buffer at the TAC entrance or an informational kiosk. Both these ideas are in the annual plan.

## New Business

### *By-Law Revision*

Hope to have proposed by-laws revisions at the next meeting



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## ***Project Support Request – CLCC***

**Motion:** to provide project support at the Gold Level (\$500)

**Motion Made by:** Jennifer K.

**Seconded by:** Judy

**Voted:** Motion passed

## ***Project Support Request – CT River Coastal Conservation District***

The board thought that the request could be better acquired through current grant opportunities and had recently supported a project in this area (October 2012).

**Motion:** not to support project support request

**Motion Made by:** Barbara

**Seconded by:** Judy

**Voted:** Motion passed

## **Old business**

### ***Strategic Planning Follow Up***

Revising by-laws. Waiting to hear from DEEP in regards to ERT Funds

## **Partner Updates**

None

## **Adjourn**

Next meeting set for noon on April 22, 2013 in Vernon, CT at the Tolland Agricultural Center

**Motion:** to adjourn

**Motion Made by:** Jennifer

**Seconded by:** Judy

**Voted:** Motion passed