



Eastern Connecticut RC&D

Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.
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Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council Meeting Minutes Monday February 27, 2012

John Guszowski called meeting to order at 12:05pm.

Participants: Ray Covino, Barb Kelly, Kip Kolesinska, Amanda Johnson, Phil Chester, Sal DeCarli, Wini Olson, Margot Burns, Lois Bruinooge, Maura Robie, Tom ODell, Paula Stahl, Elaine Sych

RC&D Program Update – RC&D funding is not in the president’s budget

Secretary’s Report –Motion made by Phil Chester, 2ed by Paula Stahl, a motion to accept meeting minutes from February meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report –Motion made by Paula Stahl, 2ed by Tom ODell, a motion to accept the treasurer’s report. Barb Kelly met with financial advisors, some increase in expenses were from getting the office setup and running. John clarified that Office infrastructure was things like rent and the phone bill, and capital equipment was things like a computer and printer

Environmental Review Team – Elaine Sych handed out the ERT activity report. She said that the ERT committee meeting would be the following Wednesday at noon at the ERT office. She also stated that the ERT had three events coming up: UCONN National Resource Conference, Ag Day at the Capital, and the conference for the Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists.

Project Manager – Sal DeCarli updated the council on his recent Goat Clinic that was help in Putnam, CT. He then stated that him and John were interested in pursuing a NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG), after much discussion the group decided to defer the decision to the Ag Committee at their next meeting. There was some uneasiness about the cash match that RC&D would have to put forward if they received the grant. Sal then brought up the topic of direct deposit. All the RC&D employees wanted to get direct deposit as opposed to hard checks in the mail. The measure was motioned by Phil Chester, 2ed by Lois Bruinooge, and the motioned passed to approve direct deposits for employees. Sal also discussed that RC&D should get polo shirts the board agreed and said that funding for the shirts should come out of “outreach/advocacy”. Sal then updated the council on the HEAP program, and stated that they had held a meeting and were planning more outreach events and methods.

Committee Reports

- **Agriculture**

Final edits of the Livestock regulations by committee. Kip Kolesinskas is working on final publication after it has gone through DOA, and is having an editor at the AFT make one last final edit. There is \$500 in the budget for editing and publication. AFT will be getting a price for printing. They are looking at one Livestock Regulation booklet to be sent to each town. John mentioned the Ag Committee using part of its budget to offset the cost of printing.

John stated that we have received funding for our Value Chain Partnership project through the CT Ag Viability Grant, but that Agvocate did not get funded.

(John excuses himself from room)

Phil stated that the last project at Brothers Processing had been given to CME Associates after a open bidding process that had been advertised state wide. He asked the board if they wished to give this grant (which is an extension of sorts) to CME as well as has been our policy in the past. Lois and Paula with the consensus of the board suggested that the project be bid on by the public in a Request for Qualification (RFQ) format. This was for the sake of transparency and because that was the wording used in the grant application. It was agreed that the Ag subcommittee would make a recommendation of the most qualified applicant to the full board, and the full board would make the final decision of who to award the contract based on the Ag committee's recommendation.

(John is asked back into the room)

- **Greenways**

Margot stated that there would be a GIS training on 3/28/12. She is working on a new greenway with Fish and Wildlife as well as private forest landowners. She is also looking for ideas for project for next year so she can include them in next year's greenways budget. She also said that she has not gotten a call back from our insurance agent (in regards to insuring the GPS units), and has called several times

- **Livable Communities**

Elaine said they had not had a meeting since November. She also stated that the lakeshore BMP manual is coming along and has not be notified of any delays since the timetable was adjusted in January. There was a discussion about the possibly of supporting the Tree Warden program again this year. The farm to school program is progressing. John asked Elaine to give Sal her hours thus far so that he can keep track of them for the NRCS partnership agreement.

Farm Energy Program – Amanda has some upcoming event at the CT NOFA conference, at the Bethany Town Hall, and will have materials present at the Ag Commission Conference and the CLCC Conference. She is currently trying to get applications to Rural Development but is facing a reduced timetable as compared to previous years.

New Business

- **Funding Requests**

- The council voted and approved the request to support this reprinting in the amount of \$1500. John put it to a total council vote and passed with unanimous support. Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District request for project support from the Eastern CT RC&D Council. The request is for funds to reprint our District publication, "Invasive Plants in Your Backyard! A Guide to Their Identification and Control." This guide has been very popular and is now in short supply.
- The council voted and approved the request from Middletown in the amount of \$500 . This is contingent on evidence that other municipalities besides Middletown will be provided, and that Eastern CT RC&D will be given credit for supporting the event. Phil motioned, Tom 2ed, and the motion passed.

Old Business

None to Report

Adjourn

Next meeting is Tuesday the 24th at the Danielson NRCS Office. Motion to adjourn meeting at 2:38pm by Paula Stahl, 2ed by Phil Chester, motion passed.

