



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, April 28, 2015
Tolland County Agricultural Center
24 Hyde Ave., Vernon, CT

Board Members in Attendance:

John Guskowski – Working Land Alliance
Judy Rondeau – Easter Ct Conservation District
Margot Burns – Lower Ct River Valley Council of Governments, late to meeting
Mark Nielson – Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
John S. Weedon – Ct Farmland Trust
Jim Costello – Ct River Coastal Conservation District
Lois Bruinooge – The Last Green Valley
Barbara Kelly – North Central Conservation District, late to meeting

Board Member not in attendance: Francis Pickering, Jim Sipperly, Sal DeCarli

Other Attendees: Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Elaine Sych, Laura Brown – UConn Extension, Roman S. Mrozinski – Southwest Conservation District, Raymond Covino – Natural Resource Conservation Service, Pat Young – Salmon River Association

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

Secretaries Report:

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes as amended.

Motion made by:

Seconded by:

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

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

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

Resolution: To authorize the submission of a USDA Rural Business Development Grant application in the amount of \$88,677.06

Motion made by: Lois Bruinooge

Seconded by: John Weedon

Voted: Motion passed unanimously.

Funds not available until mid-September, grant is for 1 year.

Treasurer's Report:

Barbara is working on the reporting format with the new bookkeeper. It was decided to wait for correction and clarification of reporting format before accepting the treasurer's report.

Discussion concerning using ERT funds for projects that fulfill intent of ERT program.

Motion: RC&D is free to expand the services and the focus area of the ERT Program, as we have done over several years, within the broader framework of assisting communities with making better land-use decisions. DEEP can be a critical partner to service delivery but does not control decision-making. The RC&D Council must decide whether budgetary expenditures are appropriate to intent of the ERT Program.

Motion made by: Lois Bruinooge

Seconded by: John Weedon

The roll call vote was as follows:

In Favor: John Guskowski, John Weedon, Lois Bruinooge. Opposed: Mark Nielsen. Abstaining: Jim Costello, Judy Rondeau, Margot Burns, Barb Kelly.

Motion carried.

Special meeting to be held in May to discuss ERT work plan and budget in which DEEP will be asked to attend.

Project Updates:

Soil Health

4th annual CT Agricultural Conference, March 14th , *Don't Treat Your Soil Like Dirt* , 14 or 15 people attended from southwest Ct. Working on hosting a full NE workshop and another Ct workshop.

RCPP

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

Salmon River Watershed Association

Motion: To have John Guskowski sign the MOU with the Salmon River Watershed Association which designates CT RC&D as their fiscal sponsor.

Motion Made by: Barbara Kelly

Seconded by: Mark Nielson

Voted: Motion carried unanimously.

The Association is considered a subsidiary of Ct RC&D for insurance purposes. The Association will pay for any increase in insurance rates.

Urban Oakes:

The organization has received 501c-3 status.

Motion: To have John Guskowski sign the necessary paper work to turn ownership of the Urban Oakes vehicle to Urban Oakes.

Motion Made by: Jim Costello

Seconded by: Mark Nielson

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

DEEP:

DEEP would like help to complete the bedding material 319 grant. Would like to enter into new contract for \$15,000.00.

Motion: To enter into new contract with DEEP to finalize the bedding material 319 grant.

Motion made by: Barbara Kelly

Seconded by: Lois Bruinooge

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:36am

Next Meeting Date May 18th, location to be determined.