



Eastern Connecticut RC&D

Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.
24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon CT 06066 * (860) 373-7408 * 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, April 29, 2013 Tolland County Agricultural Center 24 Hyde Ave., Vernon, CT

Board Members in Attendance: Barbara Kelly, Lois Bruinooge, John Guskowski, Paula Stahl, Tom Seidel, Judy Rondeau, Wini Olson

Board Member not in attendance: Tom O'Dell, Jim Larkin, Jim Gooch, Margot Burns, Jennifer Kaufman, Margot Burns

Other Attendees: Elaine Sych, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Sal DeCarli, Lisa Coverdale

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 12:10pm

Presidents Address:

John reaffirmed his intentions to not continue as President of Eastern CT RC&D for the coming fiscal year.

Secretaries Report:

Corrections were requested to the minutes. Change Jude Rondeau to Judy Rondeau, and remove one of the two commas after Margot's name.

Motion: to accept the meeting minutes from the February 25th meeting as amended

Motion Made by: Lois

Seconded by: Margot

Voted: Motion passed

Abstention: Paula, Tom S., Wini

Treasurer's Report

Reviewed Financial Statement, Profit/Loss Statement, and Project Accounting.

Motion: to enter the financial statement into the records

Motion Made by: Paula

Seconded by: Margot

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.

There were two items were discussed in length

- 1) The Council wished to clarify a response letter to DEEP. The Council wished to underscore the harmony of the mission between Eastern CT RCD, ERT, and DEEP
- 2) The Council will make it clear that ERT will be moving forward hopefully in partnership with DEEP and re-envisioning its approach to meet both the changing needs of municipalities and the DEEP.



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Farm Energy Program (Contact Amanda for distributed Report)

Amanda updated the board on recent and continuing projects, and upcoming events.

Motion: To support the Farm Energy Program through the end of June with the reallocation of the admin income of \$2,900 and \$2,100 from Project Support. This is with the understanding that copies and rent will be considered “in-kind contributions”

Motion Made by: Paula

Seconded by: Wini

Voted: Motion passed

Project Manager Update

Motion: To allow John to sign the non-discrimination agreement with the State of Connecticut for the Agviability grant(s) as read to the board.

Motion Made by: Tom S.

Seconded by: Lois

Voted: Motion passed

Motion: To allow Margot to sign the authorization to enter into both AG Viability contracts as read out loud to the board.

Motion Made by: Lois

Seconded by: Barbra

Voted: Motion passed

Peat 319, RC&D has received approximately \$20,000 in the last few weeks from DEEP. That amount covered RC&D for 3 outstanding invoices. The project is continuing to move forward.

Lake Shore Management, RC&D is waiting to receive a new contract from Chuck Lee (DEEP) which will outline new allocations and a new time table for project completion.

Soil Health Workshops, were a success, we will be invoicing NRCS. RC&D is hoping to continue with another NRCS contract to continue working on Soils Health in Connecticut

HEAP, RC&D submitted a USA Equestrian Trust Grant to support the HEAP Program.

NEW AG Viability (Agvocate 5) Continue with current Agvocate program and also establish a Train the Trainer Program to help spread the word of Agvocate, and to work with partners to coordinate agriculture resources into a single macro network



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Advocate Steering committee (represented by Lois) would like to recommend continuing using CME as the contractor for the Advocate program, and avoid going back out to an RFP.

John left the room to allow further discussion

Lois, stated that the Advocate steering committee had already discussed the future of the Advocate at a separate meeting (with John/CME out of the room) and it was decided that the Advocate Subcommittee wanted to continue with CME because of their current success with the program, excellent organization of event, and feedback from event attendees.

Lois can be contacted for the meeting minutes from the Advocate subcommittee meeting when the discussion took place

Motion: To enter into agreement and authorize the Vice Chair (Lois) to sign Advocate (AG Viability Grant) certified resolution form.

Motion Made by: Barbra

Seconded by: Paula

Voted: Motion passed

Motion: In view of the recent RFP for the Advocate program, and based on the recommendation of the Advocate Steering Committee, RC&D awards the current contract holder CME the new Advocate contract.

Motion Made by: Barbra

Seconded by: Paula

Voted: Motion passed

John asked to rejoin the meeting

Advocate 4, CME updated the council on their recent events and presentations.

Value Chain Partnership, CME updated the Council on recent events at the slaughter facility. RC&D will contact Ron Olsen about possibly re assessing the project goals.

Committee Reports

Agriculture

Phil Chester Resigned from the board. The Ag. Committee will be temporarily assigned to John until the annual meeting.



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Greenways

Conference call discussing resources to help people understand greenways. Greenways is looking for new ideas.

Sustainable Communities

Updated the council on a few funding opportunities that they had explored. None of them have been feasible. The Subcommittee will be supporting the Tolland County Agricultural Center (TAC) with \$1,000 donation to construct an informational kiosk to assist people with visiting the TAC grounds. Funding will come from the Sustainable Communities Subcommittee line item.

New Business

Annual Meeting

June 24, 2013
11am – 2pm

2013 – 2014 Budget

Meeting to review and discuss budget to be held on May 29, 2013 at 10:00am

Nomination Committee Officers

New Project Opportunities

Old Business

Strategic Plan Implementation – Will be discussed in Executive Committee Teleconference

By-Laws Revisions – Will be discussed in Executive Committee Teleconference

Partner Updates

NRCS

- Lisa Coverdale the new State Conservationist attending the meeting and updated the board on current NRCS programs and initiatives. Lisa also presented RC&D an award in recognition for the Soil Health Workshops

Adjourn

Next meeting (Annual Meeting) set for 11:00am June 24 2013 in Vernon, CT at the Tolland County Agricultural Center

Motion: to adjourn

Motion Made by: Barb

Seconded by: Lois

Voted: Motion passed