



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, August 25, 2015, 9:30- 11:30am,
deKoven House
27 Washington Street
Middletown, CT

Board Members in Attendance: John Guskowski, Judy Rondeau, John Weedon, Jim Costello, Jim Sipperly, Margot Burns.

Board Members not in attendance: Francis Pickering, Sal DeCarli, Mark Nielsen.

Other Attendees: Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Liz Aaronsohn – Urban Oaks, Patricia Bisacky – State of CT DPH.

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m..

CT RC&D BUSINESS

Secretaries Report

Motion: To accept the June 29, 2015 meeting minutes as amended.

Discussion: Need to add edits to minutes sent by email to John from Mark Nielsen, add note to pg. 2.

Motion made by: John Weedon

Seconded by: Jim Costello

Voted: Motion approved, Margot abstained.

Financial Reporting:

The bookkeeper met with Pat Young concerning the Salmon River Association and will be meeting with Amanda concerning CT RC&D agricultural programs.

Environmental Review Team:

Elaine is on medical leave and Amanda is answering phone calls and collecting mail while she is gone.

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

Funds for the New England Program need to be transferred to the Center for EcoTechnology.

RBEG closed out in August. Amanda participated in the Ag Field Day at UConn at Laurel Brook Farm.

13 projects have been submitted for the REAP application dead line. Farm energy workshops to be held Oct. 1st and Oct 8th in Windsor and North Haven. There will be a Digester tour on Oct, 15th at Barstow Farm in Hadley, Ma.

Amanda reported that the total amount of REAP grant dollars requested for April & June 2015 = \$ 790,634.00, 2 REAP grants received reduced funding and that the total amount of REAP grant dollars received in 2015 for CT Farms & AG Rural Small Businesses = \$ 753,590.00 with CFEP assistance.

Motion: To authorize John Guskowski as President to transfer New England Farm Energy Funds to the Center for EcoTechnology and to sign an MOU between CTRC&D and the Center for EcoTechnology.

Motion Made by: John Weedon

Seconded by: Jim Sipperly

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

Soil Health:

A soil health planning workshop will be taking place in December.

319 Grant:

New contract (\$15,000) with DEEP and Cooperative Development Institute for peat pots and bedding material study to fund reporting and workshops.

Motion: Authorize Margot Burns to sign resolution and John Guskowski to sign nondiscrimination claim for peat 319 grant.

Motion Made by: John Weedon

Seconded by: Jim Sipperly

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: To enter into a cooperative agreement with the Cooperative Development Institute for the purpose of the Peat 319 grant with DEEP.

Motion Made by: John Weedon

Seconded by: Jim Sipperly

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

RCPP:

John Guskowski reported that we hope to introduce 500 acres of farmland to the best management practices of soil health and water conservation. There will be 2 workshops one in northeast CT and one in Southeast CT with Javier Cruz and Ray Covino.

Salmon River Watershed Partnership:

John Guskowski reported that their funds have been transferred to CT RC&D. A separate account has been created for this purpose.

Urban Oakes:

Liz Aaronsohn, Board Chair for Urban Oakes explained their need to be able to raise funds since their partnering organization ROOTS became a 501,3-c. She is seeking help from RC&D in regards to this situation. It was determined that at this time RC&D could not become any type of financial fiduciary for Urban Oakes.

CT Source Water Collaborative:

Patricia Bisacky – State of CT DPH reported on the CT Source Water Collaborative and source water protection and preservation.

Budget and Staffing:

John Guszkowski reported that 3 staff positions were created through the proposed work plans submitted by current staff. It was determined by the Executive Committee that three positions were needed. A full time Manager of Agricultural Programs, a part time, 20hrs a week, Manager of Environmental Programs, and a full time Executive Director. Amanda Fargo Johnson was asked to become the Manager of Agricultural Programs and has accepted that position; Elaine Sych was asked to become the Manager of Environmental Programs, and a search would begin for a full time Executive Director.

Motion: To authorize the Executive Committee to scope for the full time Executive Director position. Discussion concerned whether or not we needed to wait for Elaine Sych to respond to the Environmental Program manager position. It was decided that Elain's position did not affect the need to hire an Executive Director.

Motion made by: John Weedon

Seconded by: Jim Sipperly

Voted: Motion passed, Judy Rondeau abstained.

Office Consolidation:

Discussion concerned the need to consolidate the Haddam and Vernon office locatons. The third floor of DeKoven House is a possibility that needs to be investigated.

New England RC&D Conference:

The conference will be held Fri. Oct. 23rd and Fri. Oct 24th at the American Inn, Griswold, CT. Vanilla Bean will be catering.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be held Wed., Oct. 28th , 9:30am, deKoven House, Middletown.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:42am.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot Burns
Secretary