



Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

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*John Guskowski, President
Phil Chester, Vice President
Barbara Kelly, Treasurer
Margot Burns, Secretary*

Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council Monday, August 9th, 2010 12:20 pm-3:00 pm Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc. was called to order at 12:20 p.m. by President John Guskowski.

Present: John Guskowski, WLA, President	Barbara Kelly, NCCD, Treasurer
Phil Chester, Lebanon, V. President	Elizabeth Rogers, NRCS
Tom Seidel, SECCOG	Margot Burns, CRERPA
Elaine Sych, ERT	Amanda Fargo-Johnson, ERT
Tom ODell, CRCCD	Norma O'Leary, ECCD
Wini Olsen, Essex Land Trust	Paula Stahl, GVI
Ray Covino, NRCS	Norman St. Jean, RD
Johan Strandson, RD	

NRCS Report: Liz Rogers

Liz told the Council that she will be retiring the end of December. NRCS will work with the Council on transition issues over the next few months.

Soil Health Workshop: Ray Covino

Ray asked the council to support and sponsor a soil health workshop. Ray Archuleta, Agro-ecologist, NRCS would be the workshop presenter. The workshop which will be for agricultural producers will provide information on conservation tillage and how it promotes soil quality, soil health, and improve plant production.

Motion: To endorse the workshop and discuss financial support when more information is available

Motion Made by: Barbara Kelly

Seconded by: Paula Stahl

Voted: Motion passed

John Guskowski left the room prior to the discussion of the consultant selection for the Brother's Quality project

Consultant selection Brother's Quality; Phil Chester

The Council held a special meeting on July 15th to review the applications to conduct the environmental study at Brother's Quality, several council members visited the site and met with the owners on July 22nd and met earlier today to make a recommendation to the full council. The committee recommended that CME be hired as the consultant to complete the project. This recommendation is based on the following: familiarity with the project, CME's experience with environmental studies, the owners of Brother's Quality past working relationship and confidence with CME and Council President John Guskowski's full disclosure of potential conflict of interest

Motion: To select CME as the consultant for the Brother's Quality project and to ask CME to prepare a contract for the Council's review. The contract will be drafted for \$38,000 and vice-president Phil Chester will be authorized to sign the contract. In addition a letter from the owners of Brother's Quality stating they want to continue with the project is required for the project to move forward.

Motion Made by: Paula Stahl

Seconded by: Norma O'Leary
Voted: Motion passed

Secretary's Report:

Motion: To approve the minutes of 06/21/10 and 07/15/10

Motion Made by: Wini Olsen

Seconded by: Norma O'Leary

Voted: Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Motion: to receive the report and place on file

Motion Made by: Paula Stahl

Seconded by: Phil Chester

Voted: Motion passed

Motion: to authorize the treasurer to enter into a contract with a consultant to conduct a book review and complete the 990 form.

Motion Made by: Phil Chester

Seconded by: Paula Stahl

Voted: Motion passed

Environmental Review Team:

Elaine handed out a program update and discussed several projects.

Greenways Committee : Margot Burns

The Greenway Committee met on 7/7 with John Monroe, NPS to explore partnering opportunities with their water trails initiative. The committee met with Mark Goetz, NECCOG to discuss partnering on GPS training sessions. A meeting will be scheduled to explore the possibility of developing roundtable discussions of greenway and blueway issues

Livable Communities: Elaine Sych

The next committee meeting is scheduled for 9/15 at the Essex town hall. The Committee asked the council to support and accept a 319 Lake Shoreline Protection project.

Motion: To support and accept the 319 Lake Shoreline Protection Project

Motion Made by: Barbara Kelly

Seconded by: Norma O'Leary

Voted: Motion passed

Motion: for a Certified Resolution to authorize Council president John Guskowski to enter into contracts with CT DEP.

Motion Made by: Phil Chester

Seconded by: Norma O'Leary

Voted: Motion passed

Agriculture Committee: John Guskowski

The committee will meet on 9/7, 10:00 Lebanon Town hall. They have been working on the Brother's Quality project. Construction of the phosphorus removal project with Laurel brook Farm is almost complete. A workshop to showcase the project will be held on 10/20.

CT Farm Energy Program: Amanda Johnson

Amanda submitted a written report of the program activities and discussed the BMP manual.

Motion: To enter into a contract with Ensave for the development of the BMP manual.

Motion Made by: Phil Chester

Seconded by: Barbara Kelly

Voted: Motion passed

Council on Soil and Water: Barbara Kelly

No meeting since last report

Partner Update:

Johan Strandson: Updated the Council on RD's projects under the American Resource Recovery Act.
Norman St Jean, Area Loan Specialist, RD has transferred from MA to Norwich and will be working with us on several projects

Paula Stahl; GVI will be sponsoring a weekend retreat on Sept. 17-19. The purpose of the retreat is to provide environmental training and education for folks interested in becoming volunteers in their communities

Margot Burns: Many of the land trusts that belong to the land trust collaborative are sponsoring a talk on endangered species on 8/15

John Guskowski: Will be assisting WLA with a tour of agricultural operations and a discussion of agricultural issues with several elected officials on 8/15. The tour will include the Brother's Quality facility.

New Business:

John Guskowski

- Policy approval: calendar, fundraising, competitive bidding
Motion: To approve the 3 policies with the competitive bidding policy to be raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000.
Motion Made by: Phil Chester
Seconded by: Paula Stahl
Voted: Motion passed
- Award nominations-New England Meeting: a teleconference will be held with the executive board to discuss nominations
- NACD Dues Request
Motion: to pay \$50 in dues to NACD
Motion Made by: Phil Chester
Seconded by: Norma O'Leary
Voted: Motion passed
- Membership Request WLA: wait until Feb
- Establish: Executive Board as the Audit and financial Oversight Committee
Motion: to Establish the Executive Board and one other voting council member as the Audit and financial Oversight Committee
Motion Made by: Phil Chester
Seconded by: Norma O'Leary
Voted: Motion passed
- Project funding request, CT River Coastal Conservation District
Motion: to provide \$1,575 in funding for reprinting of the Backyard Water Resource Guide
Motion Made by: Phil Chester
Seconded by: Paula Stahl
Voted: Motion passed