



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 Meeting Minutes Monday, August 26, 2013 Tolland County Agricultural Center 24 Hyde Ave., Vernon, CT

Board Members in Attendance: Lois Bruinooge, John Guskowski, Judy Rondeau, Jim Larkin, Margot Burns, Jennifer Kaufman

Board Member not in attendance: Jim Gooch, Tom Seidel, Barbara Kelly, Paula Stahl, Tom O'Dell

Other Attendees: Sal DeCarli, Raymond Covino, Elaine Sych

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 12:11pm

Secretaries Report:

Corrections were requested to the minutes. Change Furlow to Ferlow.

Motion: to accept the meeting minutes from the Annual Meeting meeting as amended

Motion Made by: Judy

Seconded by: Jim L.

Voted: Motion passed

Abstention: N/A

Treasurer's Report

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

Motion: to enter the financial statement into the records

Motion Made by: Margot

Seconded by: Lois

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.

- Need replacement for Wini Olsen on ERT Subcommittee. Barb as the current alternate would be the first choice unless other board members express interest.
- No response yet from DEEP on letter from RC&D on returning ERT funds. (ERT Subcommittee had sent letter to DEEP informing them of their intentions not to return ERT funds)



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Farm Energy Program (Contact Amanda for distributed Report)

Amanda was not in attendance, John presented her report to the board.

Project Manager Update

- Peat 319: RC&D has requested reports from Lynda (GVI). Dairy fiber is currently in tests at UCONN.
- Lake Shore Management: still on going, Chuck Lee is coordinating with F&O, and we are waiting to hear from him on our next step.
- Soil Health Workshops: workshop on Thursday at Woodstock Orchards. This will be the 1st of four workshop to be held across the state. We have heard from over 58 people who will be attending.
- Agviability (Farm Energy): Please contact Amanda for details
- Agvocate: steering committee met last week, beginning planning Fall Workshop Nov. 20th. Reviewing list of topics for spring conference. Train the Trainer program is moving forward with the development of a “curriculum” and format. Use/hire Amanda for a program assistant for the Agvocate program.
- Value Chain Partnership: Brothers has gotten USDA certification. A meat processor was interested in leasing/partnering with Brothers and handle Brothers “processing” aspect of their operation.

Committee Reports

Agriculture

Has not met.

Greenways

Has not met

Sustainable Communities

- Reminded the board about the Emerald Ash Borer, mentioned that there might be new quarantine zones coming to parts of the state.
- Tree wardens now need to be certified.

New Business

By Laws Revisions/RC&D Merger

Lois has been working on the bylaws revisions, many of them depend on whether or not there is a council merger. Kings mark, and the ECT RC&D executive committee have both expressed interest in a merger. The current thought is that Kings Mark would dissolve, and ECT RC&D would reword their bylaws to include the whole state. Current concerns are to try to maintain a balance on the board despite the large increase in “eligible board members” in the case of a merge.



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Motion: to continue to explore merger options and further develop bylaw revisions in the focus of a merger between Eastern Connecticut RC&D and Kings Mark RC&D

Motion Made by: Margot

Seconded by: Judy

Voted: Motion passed

Abstention: N/A

Old Business

None

Partner Updates

Last Green Valley

- Handed out calendars and announced their Walktober Events.

Adjourn

Next meeting set for 12:00pm October 28, 2013 in Mansfield, CT

Motion: to adjourn at 1:35pm

Motion Made by: Lois

Seconded by: Margot

Voted: Motion passed