



Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

139 Wolf Den Road, Brooklyn, CT 06234 * (860) 774-0224 * www.easternrcd-ct.org

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

Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council
Monday, December 13, 2010
Town of Lebanon Public Safety Complex
11:10 am-12:40 pm
Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc. was called to order at 11:10 p.m. by President John Guskowski.

| | |
|---|--|
| Present: John Guskowski, WLA, President | Lee Szruba, Thames River Basin Partnership |
| Margot Burns, CRERPA, Secretary | Elizabeth Rogers, NRCS |
| Joyce Purcell, NRCS | Ray Covino, NRCS |
| Elaine Sych, ERT | Amanda Fargo-Johnson, ERT |
| Tom ODell, CRCCD | Norma O'Leary, ECCD |
| Wini Olson, Essex Land Trust | Paula Stahl, GVI |
| Liz Swenson, Ct Farm Energy | Norman St. Jean, RD |
| Jim Larkin, NECCOG | Lois Bruinooge, TLGV |
| Tom Seidel, SECCOG | Nancy Ferlow, NRCS |

NRCS Update/Coordinator Position: Joyce Purcell, Assistant State Conservationist

Joyce handed out a one-page "Update at a Glance" that highlighted the achievements and partnerships undertaken by NRCS in Connecticut during the Fiscal Year that ended September 30, 2010. She updated the group of the initiatives of new State Conservationist Jay Mar, including brainstorming sessions held with Agricultural and Conservation partners, as well as the upcoming Conservation Partnership Leadership Conference. She discussed transition plans for a new Coordinator, including the job posting within USDA, closing 12/20/10, and her own appointment as Interim Coordinator.

Secretary's Report:

Motion: To approve the minutes of 10/25/10 with corrections

Motion Made by: Norma O'Leary

Seconded by: Paula Stahl

Voted: Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

In Treasurer Barbara Kelly's absence, John Guskowski and Liz Rogers discussed the financial reporting and answered questions about the budget status. Liz stated that approximately \$80,000 in unrestricted funds were available to the Council, as well as \$15,000 in restricted funds.

Motion: To receive the monthly report (handed out) and place on file

Motion Made by: Paula Stahl

Seconded by: Tom ODell

Voted: Motion passed

Environmental Review Team:

Elaine handed out a program update and discussed several projects. Beacon Falls report has been completed. Elaine, Tom Odell, and John Guskowski updated the group on the meetings held in conjunction with the effort to restore the funding mechanism of the Fee Bill and the proposed approach of the ERT, the Conservation Districts, and the Council on Soil & Water Conservation during the upcoming state legislative session.

New Business

- **Funding Request: Journey North Program**
Motion: To provide \$65 in Project Support funds to the Town of Eastford for the Journey North Program
Motion Made by: Norma O'Leary
Seconded by: Lee Szruba
Voted: Motion passed
- **Funding Request: Ag In The Classroom**
Motion: To provide \$500 in Project Support funds to the Connecticut Agricultural Education Program
Motion Made by: Norma O'Leary
Seconded by: Paula Stahl
Voted: Motion passed
- **Funding Request: Green Valley Institute "Dark Skies" Seminar**
Motion: To provide \$1000 in Project Support funds to the Green Valley Institute's "Dark Skies" Seminar
Motion Made by: Norma O'Leary
Seconded by: Lee Szruba
Voted: Motion passed, with two abstentions (Paula Stahl and Lois Bruinooge)
- **Funding/Partnership Request: Town of Putnam "Saturday Farmers' Market" Project**
Motion: To provide \$500 in Project Support funds to the Town of Putnam for the Saturday Farmers' Market project, and to submit a Contribution Agreement proposal to USDA-NRCS for \$6,000 for this project
Motion Made by: Norma O'Leary
Seconded by: Lois Bruinooge
Voted: Motion passed
- **NARC&DC Leadership Conference, Feb. 14-15, 2011:** John Guskowski discussed the upcoming Leadership Conference in Washington, DC and encouraged Council members to consider attending. Funds are available via a dedicated budget line item as well as funds from "Conferences Attended" line item. Margot Burns is interested in attending, as is John Guskowski should the Council be receiving any leadership awards.

Old business

- **Soil Health Workshop-Ray Covino:**
Ray is working on the details for the workshop, which is scheduled to take place in mid-February, most likely in Lebanon. RC&D will assist with coordination of the event.
- **Competitive Bidding Policy Revision – Paula Stahl**
Motion: To approve the revised Competitive Bidding Policy as amended
Motion Made by: Lois Bruinooge
Seconded by: Paula Stahl
Voted: Motion passed
- **Farm Energy Program:**
Amanda Fargo-Johnson updated the Council on progress in the Farm Energy Program, specifically on the producers interested or in process of working through

REAP applications. She also introduced the new Best Management Practices for Farm Energy guide that would be rolled out following the Council meeting.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, John Guskowski and Joyce Purcell thanked Liz Rogers for her outstanding service as RC&D Area Coordinator and requested that she join the Council for a special gathering in early 2011 to celebrate her work with the Council. The next Council meeting was set for Monday, February 28 at 12:00 noon, at a location to be determined.

Meeting was adjourned (Tom Seidel motion/Paula Stahl second) at 12:40 p.m.