

Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council  
Annual Meeting  
Monday, June 13, 2011  
11:15 pm - 12:00 pm  
Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc. was called to order at 11:15a.m. by President John Guskowski.

Present: \*Council Members

Amanda Fargo- Johnson	CT ERT/CT Farm Energy
Elaine Sych	CT ERT
Liz Swenson	CT Farm Energy Program
Joyce Purcell	USDA NRCS
Susan Westa	UConn Extension
Caorlyn Werge	
Bob Werge	
Michelle Bourgeois	The Last Green Valley, Inc.
Lois Bruinooge*	The Last Green Valley, Inc.
Sherri Vogt	Congressman Courtney's Office
Eric Thomas	CT DEP
Paula Stahl*	GVI
Liz Rogers	
Keith Rogers	
John Guskowski*	Working Lands Alliance/CME
Scott Young	CME
Jeff Stefanik	CME
Wayne Bugden	CME
Rick Canavan	CME
Vicki Paliulis	CME
Jay Mar	NRCS
Linda Mar	
Jennifer Kaufman	Agvocate
Norma O'Leary	
Ernie O'Leary	
Lynn Weaver	Farm Credit East
Leonora Szruba*	Thames River Basin Partnership
Jay Healy	USDA Rural Development
Joanne Demars	USDA Rural Development
Phillip Chester*	WINCOG
Scott Gravatt	Eastern CT Conservation District
Kate Johnson	Eastern CT Conservation District
Judy Rondeau	Eastern CT Conservation District
Jean Pillo	Eastern CT Conservation District
Ben Bowell	American Farmland Trust
Tom Odell*	CRCCD

Jean King	
Michael Kielty	CT Food Policy Council, UConn
Tom Seidel*	SECOG
Dawn Pindell	USDA Farm Service Agency
Javier Cruz	USDA NRCS
Kevin Kennedy	Thompson Town Planner
Barbara Kelly*	North Central Conservation District
Delpha Very	Town of Putnam
Margot Burns*	CRERPA
Donna Bronwell	Killingly Conservation Commission
David Talbot	Killingly Conservation Commission
Carol Wood	Killingly Conservation Commission
Jim Larkin	NECOG
Johan Strandson	USDA Rural Development
Wini Olson*	Essex Land Trust
Kristin Orr	Fort Hill Farm
Peter Orr	Fort Hill Farm
Steve Reviczky	Department of Agriculture
Christina Fensley	McV Farm, Canterbury
James Sipperly	King's Mark RC&D
Joanne Winkler	North Central Conservation District
Chris Donnelly	CT DEP
Rachel Holmes	CT DEP
Ray Covino	NRCS

John Guskowski began the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their continued support of the RC&D program. He spoke of the many highlights of the RC&D program for the year and the coming challenges it faces due to the cut in federal funding for the program. Peter Orr, owner/farmer of Fort Hill Farm and Steven Reviczky, Commissioner of Agriculture, welcomed the group.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

Motion: To approve the minutes of 4/25/11.

Motion made by: Paula Stahl

Seconded by: Tom ODell

Voted: Motion passed

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

The RC&D budget is shown to be in the red for the first time due to place holders for hiring of staff due to the loss of federal funding.

Motion: To approve RC&D and ERT budgets for FY 2012

Motion made by: Tom O'Dell

Seconded by: Margot Burns

Voted: Motion passed

**Election of Officers:**

Motion: To approve the following as officers of the Council:

John Guskowski, President

Phil Chester, Vice President

Margot Burns, Secretary

Barbara Kelly, Treasurer

Motion Made by: Paula Stahl

Seconded by: Tom Seidel

Voted: Motion passed.

**Annual Plan of Work:**

Motion: To approve the 2011-2012 Annual Plan of Work and to include a human resource review line item in the ERT budget.

Motion made by: Barbara Kelly

Seconded by: Paula Stahl

Voted: Motion passed.

**Additional Item:**

Motion: To allow the President, with board approval, to enter Eastern CT RC&D into contracts on behalf of the Council and to submit written certification of the Council's equal opportunity policies in accordance with Federal and State contracts.

Motion made by: Lee Szruba

Seconded by: Judy Rondeau

The Business Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 by consensus of the Board.

After the meeting: partner updates were given by Jay Mar, State Conservationist, USDA NRCS, and James Sipperly, President of the National Association of RC&D Councils; RC&D Partnership Awards were given to Elizabeth Rogers, who retired at the end of December as Coordinator for RC&D, and Norma O'Leary, former Secretary of RC&D and long time council member; and Kristen Orr gave a presentation concerning CT Agritourism and Farm Diversification.