



# 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*

Meeting Minutes  
Sept 20th, 2016, 1pm – 3:30pm  
Capitol Regional Council of Governments, 241 Main St., Hartford, CT

**Board Members in Attendance:** John Guskowski, Margot Burns, Mark Goetz, John Weedon, Lois Bruinooge, Aaron Budris, Barbara Kelly, Jim Larkin, Lynne Pike Disanto

**Board Members not in Attendance:** Jim Costello, Matt Fulda, Sal Decarli

**Other Attendees:** Jeanne Davies, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Tom Morgart, Jim Hyde, Laura Brown, Rebecca Andreucci, Matt Pafford

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 1:02pm with a welcome to the well-attended meeting.

## CT RC&D BUSINESS

### **Secretary's Report**

**Motion:** To accept the annual meeting minutes of 6/8/16 and special meeting minutes of 6/29/16.

**Motion made by:** John Weedon

**Seconded by:** Mark Goetz

**Voted:** Motion approved, Jim Larkin obtained.

**Treasure's Report:** Barbara Kelly presented the profit & loss statement and discussion concerned negative balances which reflect the drawing down of reserves in anticipation of future grant funding that has been applied for.

**Motion:** To receive the profit and loss as presented.

**Motion made by:** John Weedon

**Seconded by:** Lois Bruinooge

**Voted:** Motion approved unanimously.

### **Financial Forecast 2016-2019:**

Jeanne and Amanda went over existing and pending grants which will allow us to maintain the status quo and allow us to continue doing good work, however if we want to grow the program more aggressive programs for funding and board development need to be developed.

### **NRCS Contract:**

Discussion - Jeanne and Tom explained that RC&D will hire 4 employees to carry out NRCS private landowner programs. The goal of the programs is to improve water quality in Long Island Sound through private landowner best management practices. RC&D does not have an indirect cost rate but is in the process of establishing it which will allow for better contract rates in the future. RC&D will need to review its workers compensation insurance before hiring. If the program moves forward

RC&D would like feedback on staff and the program from NRCS staff. The treasurer approves as it moves the RC&D mission forward and that of NRCS to focus on urban areas and more locally grown food in urban centers

**Motion:** To accept the contract as proposed for the purpose of moving ahead the mission of both organizations.

**Motion made by:** John Weedon

**Seconded by:** Lois Bruinooge

**Voted:** Motion approved unanimously.

**Organization Growth Options:**

Discussion – Currently we are able to accomplish 1 or 2 ERT reports a year. Do we maintain the status quo of funding through grant initiatives or does RC&D want to grow through membership and fund raising? Should we create subcommittees to investigate finance and membership? Board member time might be 4-5hours a month until December. Do we remove the no fundraising policy from our bylaws? Does fundraising have to be the only growth strategy? Could membership by the COGs' with the goal of helping coordinate state planning activities be thought about? Should we be more business oriented?

**Motion:** RC&D should pursue a growth strategy and authorizes the President in consultation with the Executive Director to form committees as he sees fit.

**Motion made by:** John Weedon

**Seconded by:** Barbara Kelly

**Voted:** Motion approved unanimously.

**Motion:** To authorize a \$75 membership in the CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions (CACIWC).

**Motion made by:** John Weedon

**Seconded by:** Mark Goetz

**Voted:** Motion approved unanimously.

**Agricultural Programs Report:**

Please contact Amanda Fargo-Johnson for update material.

**ERT Reports and Updates:**

Discussion – Should RC&D become a third party consultant to towns for a fee? RC&D will have a booth at the Eightmile Riverfest.

**Advertisement – CTDOAG Magazine Contract:**

CT Dept. of Agriculture will be producing a new annual publication called CT Grown. RC&D will consider advertising in the future.

**Motion:** to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion made by:** Jim Weedon

**Seconded by:** Lynne Pike Disanto

**Voted:** Motion approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margot Burns, Secretary