



Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

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John Guskowski, President
Rebecca Auger, Vice President
Barbara Kelly, Treasurer
Norma O'Leary, Secretary

Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc.
Monday February 23, 2009
1:00 pm-3:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

The Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc. was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President John Guskowski.

Present: John Guskowski, WLA, President
Norma O'Leary, ECCD, Secretary
Elaine Sych, ERT
Wini Olson, Essex Land Trust
Barbara Kelly, NCCD, Treasurer
Lee Szruba, TRBP

Paula Stahl, GVI
Elizabeth Rogers, NRCS
Amanda Fargo-Johnson, ERT
Joyce Purcell, Acting SRC, NRCS
Doug Zehner, STC, NRCS
Jim Larkin, NECCOG,
Jewel McKenzie, U.S. Census Bureau

Farm Bill and NRCS Updates:

Doug Zehner discussed the national and state priorities of the 2008 Farm Bill. Also, presented was a comparison between the provisions of the current and previous Farm Bills. Doug discussed the opportunity for RC&D Councils to submit economic stimulus proposals to NRCS for area projects that need funding. Information on the program was shared with the council and proposals are due by March 20th.

Motion: To submit projects to NRCS for consideration for funding through the economic stimulus program.

Motion Made by: Barbara Kelly

Seconded by: Paula Stahl

Voted: Motion passed

Secretary's Report:

Motion: To approve the minutes of 12/01/08 with corrections

Motion Made by: Norma O'Leary

Seconded by: Barbara Kelly

Voted: Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Motion: To accept Treasurer's report for RC&D and ERT for audit

Motion Made by: Lee Szruba

Seconded by: Jim Larkin

Voted: Motion passed

U.S. 2010 Census

Jewel McKenzie discussed the status and provisions of the 2010 Census. Presently they are hiring and training people to conduct the census. They are also looking for partners in the project. The National Association of RC&D is partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau.

Motion: For Eastern CT RC&D to partner with the U.S. Census Bureau on the 2010 Census.

Motion Made by: Barbara Kelly

Seconded by: Lee Szruba

Voted: Motion passed

Environmental Review Team:

Elaine Sych reported on a meeting earlier today with Doug Zehner, John Guskowski and Liz Rogers to discuss NRCS technical assistance on ERTs. NRCS employees will be available to assist with the ERT as time allows. Elaine will be meeting with representatives from The Southern New England Society of Soil Scientists to gain support for the ERT program and request participation from Society members on reviews.

Greenways Committee

- SBPR: Meeting have taken place to discuss completing phase 2 of the project

Livable Communities

- Tour des Farms: on hold for this year
- LULA , spring sessions: The spring LULA session will start on March 13. The Council will set up a meeting with the LULA team to discuss the program.
- Brownfields; John Guskowski, Liz Rogers and Wayne Budgen (CME) gave Doug Zehner a tour of several Brownfield sites in Putnam, Killingly and Thompson.

Agriculture Committee

- Woodstock Marketing/Business Plan: The plan should be completed in the next few months
- North Canaan 319 Grants: The 2007 grant is almost complete. The contracts for the 2008 grant are at DEP. These contracts must be signed by the CT Attorney General's office before work can begin on the grant.
- "Agvocate" Grant: Applications for the Agvocate position are being accepted until February 27.
- Energy Grant: Still waiting to hear if the Council's grant request to Rural Development has been funded.

Council on Soil and Water: Barbara Kelly reported on a proposal from the Governor to move Fee Bill funds to the general fund. Suellen Kozey McCuin should have more information on the proposal by the end of the week.

New Business:

- Annual Plan: John Guskowski and Liz Rogers will work on a draft annual plan
- Annual Meeting: Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Elaine Sych and Liz Rogers will work on the Annual meeting, award nominations and council nomination.
- FY2010 Budget: Barbara Kelly and Liz Rogers will work on a draft budget
- New England RC&D Meeting, March 28, 2009: John Guskowski, Norma O'Leary and Liz Rogers will attend
- Water Trails/Rivers Alliance: Liz Rogers will be attending a "Blueways" meeting on 2/24 hosted by The Rivers Alliance of CT to look for partnering opportunities for RC&D

Old business:

- National RC&D Meeting June 14-18 2009: John Guskowski will attend other council members who are interested should contact John.
- National Leadership Forum: John Guskowski reported on the meeting and asked council members to write to their elected officials and ask them to support a 64.2 Million dollar budget for RC&D in FY10.
- Board Development and Outreach: The April RC&D meeting will focus on capacity building. Susan Westa, GVI will facilitate the meeting. The Capacity building committee has developed a list of people to invite to the meeting which will be held at TAC. A light lunch will be provided.

- \$500 Donation to National Association of RC&D

Motion: For a \$500 Donation to National Association of RC&D

Motion Made by: Paula Stahl

Seconded by: Jim Larkin

Voted: Motion passed

- \$500 Donation to New England RC&D

Motion: For a \$500 Donation to New England Association of RC&D

Motion Made by: Barbara Kelly

Seconded by: Paula Stahl

Voted: Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm

Next Meeting April 27th, 10:00 am, Tolland Agricultural Center.