

Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council
Monday, December 12, 2011
Tolland County Extension Center
24 Hyde Road
Vernon, CT 06066-4599
12:05 pm - 2:05 pm
Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc. was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by President John Guskowski.

Present:

John Guskowski, WLA, President
Barbara Kelly, NCCD
Margot Burns, CRERPA, Secretary
Elaine Sych, ERT
Phil Chester, WINCOG, Vice President
Sal DeCarli, Project Manager
Amanda Fargo-Johnson, ERT CFEP
Paula Stahl, UConn Extension
Judy Rondeau, ECCD
Tom Seidel, SECCOG

Tom ODell, CRCCD
Jim Hyde, NRCS
Izzi Greenberg – North End Action Team
Pat Young – Eightmile River Watershed
Lynda Brushet – CDI
Bill Purcell – NRCS
Amy Blaymore Paterson - CLCC

Introductions

Introductions were made between the Council and their new Project Manager Sal DeCarli,

RC&D Program Update

The National and Regional outlook remains the same and funding will not be restored. However it remains to be seen if the RC&D program will play a role in the White House Rural Council. The New England RC&D meeting was held in October as a stripped down conference and took stock of where each council stood in the region. Only George Aikin RC&D Council has closed its doors and some have hired former coordinators as staff. There will be a spring conference.

RC&D completed a contribution agreement for more spring soil health workshops with NRCS. The fall soil health workshops were well attended and RC&D brought in approximately \$1,500.00. There will be a meeting in January concerning the contribution agreement with NRCS to outline Project Out Reach for the Farm Bill and partner outreach.

The RC&D office has moved from the existing Brooklyn location to Tolland County Agricultural Experiment Station in Vernon. Sal DeCarli will be working 20 -24 hrs. a week.

Secretary's Report

Discussion concerned adding Catherine A. Osten, First Selectman, Town of Sprague, to those present at the meeting to the draft minutes of the Nov. 24th, 2011 meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes of 8/15/11 with corrections.

Motion made by: Tom Odell

Seconded by: Phil Chester

Voted: Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Discussion concerned examination of the budget summaries. The LULA program was given another \$11,000.00 to do another short course and that will be reflected in our program expenses.

Motion: To receive the report and place in file.

Motion made by: Paula Stahl

Seconded by: Phil Chester

Voted: Motion passed

Environmental Review Team:

Elaine Sych

Elaine is waiting for reports for Gunther/TAC Property and Ridgefield Ridgebury School outdoor class room project but hope to be finishing the reports by the end of December. The review scheduled for Ansonia was cancelled for lack of the applicant's permission. Naugatuck's Long Meadow Pond Brook and the Bolton, Vernon, Tolland and Coventry for the Bolton Lanes are currently being scheduled. Outreach as been done to the land trusts for the Bolton Lakes Watershed Study Update and a mailing will be done to municipal CEO's and land use agencies. ERT received a thank you from the Candlewood Lake Authority for the support of the lake clean up and dragon boat races.

Possible new projects include: a re-review of the Preserve in Old Saybrook; New London – the Riverside Park Piece the Coast Guard is considering purchasing from the City; Burlington – a 17 acre open space purchase on Covey Road; Wethersfield – the Wilkus Farm; and Orange – the 200 acre Hubbell Property Open Space; and East Killingly for the Tri-Lakes Subdivision.

Committee Reports

Agriculture – Phil Chester

A proof of the draft *Municipal Livestock Regulations Guide* should be ready for review. 2 grants have been applied for to the State Dept. of Agriculture Advocate program. One to add two more Towns to the program for a total of 14 Towns that will then have Agricultural Commissions. There will be a spring meeting for Agricultural Commissions. The second is for the Brothers Slaughter House to work with end producers. Mucke's meat has expressed interest in

participating. Two new State funding opportunities are available. One for Farms 30 acres or less, and one for farm reclamation. Lynda Brushet, for the Cooperative Development Network spoke concerning the anaerobic digester project and production of a bi-product to replace peat as a soil amendment for the nursery industry.

Greenways – Margot Burns

The Greenway Survey is still on line and will be until after the CLCC conference. A Greenway committee meeting was held at the beginning of November with Abbie Cadman of NRCS concerning training for the (3) Juno GPS receivers. This meeting will hopefully take place sometime in January. The Park River Project is still in process. Pat Young of the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee reported on the progress of the Long Island Sound Fund Grant storm water infrastructure condition and mapping project.

Livable Communities – Elaine Sych

A meeting was held Nov. 30th. The Shoreline BMP manual draft outline is available. An extension as been given for the project and it should be completed in April. The committee will be working with Chris Donnelly, CT DEEP Urban forestry, on finding future projects besides the tree warden school program that in some way we hope to be able to continue. The final paper work came in for the Farm to School survey project. TAC projects and America the Beautiful Grant projects will be listed on the RC&D web site. Paula Stahl reported on the fall and winter workshops for the UConn Extension Community and Natural Resource Planning Program in the CRERPA and Central Connecticut RPA regions. There will be another round in the Spring in the Northwest area of the State as well as SECCOG, and possibly in Thomaston.

Connecticut Farm Energy Program: Amanda Fargo – Johnson

Interest from the western part of the State in the program has been significant. There has been regular communication with Johan Strandson, Norm St Jean, Charles Dubuc and David Broun on REAP Grants in the CT Farm Energy Service Area. There is a current grant application for the 2012 REAP from Jewett City Greenhouses for their energy efficiency project. The CFEP logo has been finalized and the postcard for the CFEP workshops has been mailed. CFEP attended the CT Farm to Chef Annual Meeting, and the RHAM High School Energy Fair with a display table. CFEP sponsored and attended the CT Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, organized and hosted the CFEP Energy and Assistance Workshop in Windham and Fairfield County. Upcoming projects include: 6 more CFEP Grant Writing Workshops being held January thru March, 2012; review of Dept of Ag Viability Grants; a meeting with RI RC&D about them starting a farm energy program; and a requested review of the CT Poultry Association RBEG application for a mobile poultry unit.

New Business:

Amy Blaymore Paterson - Executive Director – CLCC. A request for support for annual CLCC Conference whose theme is Community Involvement.

Motion: To support the CLCC Annual Conference at the Leadership Level for \$1,000.00.

Motion made: Phil Chester

Seconded by: Paula Stahl

Voted: Passed, Abstained, Margot Burns and Tom Odell.

Izzi Greenberg – Executive Director - North End Action Team. A request for funding in the amount of \$1,500.00 to continue their Double Dollars Program for the remainder of their market season for 2012.

Discussion included if RC&D would want to fund this on a continual basis. Should RC&D focus on the educational part of the project? Should a threshold of a \$1,000.00 for funding projects be used? To what extent is the volunteer involvement?

Motion: To fund in the amount of \$1,500.00 to continue their Double Dollars Program for the remainder of their market season for 2012.

Motion made: Tom Odell

Seconded by: Margot Burns

Motion Amended: To fund in the amount of \$1,000.00

Voted: Motion Passed

Old Business:

Letters of Appointment need to be submitted. Lee Szruba, Thames River Basin Partnership has stepped down from the Thames River Basin and there is a vacancy to be filled. Judy Rondeau will speak with them for another appointment. Sal will work on an application for the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for a consultant to help with capacity building and future direction of the RC&D Council.

Partner Updates:

The NRCS Brooklyn office has relocated to Danielson. Some Service Center Areas have been changed. There are some retirements taking place within NRCS in CT. Partnerships, outreach, and coordination have become a focus for the NRCS. NRCS thanks the Council for their help with the soil health workshop. The Council on Soil and Water met and a focus of the meeting was partnerships, the new matrix for DEEP funding, and funding issues.

New Projects:

Creating a food hub or processing distribution center in Pomfret. RC&D would like to look at food systems and food policy planning across the State, and a potential Atlantic White Cedar

restoration project at the Pomfret School.

The next full council meeting will be held Feb. 27th. Location to be determined.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made: Phil Chester

Second by: Judy Rondeau

Meeting adjourned at 2:23pm.