



Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.
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Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc.
Monday February 5, 2007
1:00-3:00 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, President
Norma O'Leary, Secretary
Lee Szruba, Council Member
Jana Butts, Council Member
Paula Stahl, Council Member
Tom Seidel, Council Member

Rebecca Augur, CRCOG, Vice President
Barbara Kelly, Treasurer
Wini Olson, Council Member
Elizabeth Rogers, NRCS
Alison Hayes, NECCOG
Elaine Sych, ERT

Secretary's Report:

Motion: To approve the minutes of 10/23/06 and the notes of 12/18/06

Motion Made by: Rebecca Augur

Seconded by: Norma O'Leary

Voted: Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Motion: To accept Treasurer's report as submitted

Motion Made by: Jana Butts

Seconded by: Paula Stahl

Voted: Motion passed

Environmental Review Team:

Elaine Sych submitted a written report. She reported that the ERT subcommittee is considering retaining the services of a financial planner to assist with budgeting. Elaine asked the Council if there was an interest in funding the reprinting of "Land Use Organizations Available to Municipalities and Land Owners." The original printing was financed by The CT Council on Soil and Water. The RC&D Council felt this would be a good use of funds and asked Elaine to bring the request to the ERT Subcommittee for their recommendation.

Greenways:

SPBR: The Council has requested a grant extension for the project until 2009. If permits and land rights are granted on schedule construction of the project could begin this summer.

Park River: Rebecca Augur has been asked to represent RC&D on a steering committee which is interested in developing a multi use trail that would link downtown Hartford with the Farmington Canal trail.

CACIWC: Paula Stahl and Liz Rogers discussed the presentation that they gave at the CACIWC Annual meeting on November 4th. Approximately 30 people attended the session.

Livable Communities:

Tour des Farms: This year's Tour des Farms will be September 29th in Glastonbury. The ride will have one "loop" and will focus on a high density of farms in the ride.

LULA: The spring LULA is being developed and will be held at the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments office. This Thursday a meeting is scheduled to discuss the draft LULA business plan.

Middletown Agriculture Viability Grant: The RC&D Council has been asked to assist the Community Food Security Planning Group in implementing the City of Middletown's Agriculture Viability Grant. Specifically, the RC&D agrees to provide the Planning Group with a document that identifies the Federal and state farmland preservation programs and funding sources, private funding sources for farmland preservation and creative land acquisition strategies. The council will receive \$5,000 for this project.

Agriculture Committee:

Woodstock Feasibility Study: Wright-Pierce has been selected to conduct the feasibility study which will start this month.

Willingness to Pay Survey: The survey forms have been developed and will be mailed to residents in Woodstock, Brooklyn, and Thompson and Killingly in the near future.

Council on Soil and Water:

Barbara Kelly reported that the CT Department of Agriculture is interested in continuing with The Agriculture Viability Grants Program. Walter Smith, NRCS gave a presentation on Land Use issues and The Watershed Approach at the last Council on Soil and Water meeting. Also discussed was a funded project to develop an erosion and sedimentation control manual with photo documentation of properly and improperly installed erosion and sedimentation control practices.

New Business:

New England Association Business Meeting, March 24: John Guskowski, Norma O'Leary and Liz Rogers will attend the meeting

Annual Meeting Committee: Lee Szruba, Elaine Sych and Liz Rogers will work on the annual meeting.

Develop 2007-2008 Annual Plan: John Guskowski, Lee Szruba, Barbara Kelly and Liz Rogers will draft the annual plan of work.

Old Business:

Website Updates: John Guskowski will work with Amanda Fargo-Johnson on the updates of the RC&D and Tour des Farms websites.

Board Insurance – Liz Rogers will contact Lee Szruba about the insurance coverage at the Eastern CT Conservation District.

Other Business:

National RC&D Association's Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) Proposal: The Council reviewed the request from the National RC&D Association to develop a farm energy auditor training program under the CIG program.

Motion: To support the grant request

Motion Made by: Barbara Kelly

Seconded by: Norma O'Leary

Voted: Motion passed

The next council meeting will be April 23 at 1:00

Meeting adjourned at 2:45