



Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

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*John Guskowski, President
Paula Stahl, Vice President
Barbara Kelly, Treasurer
Norma O'Leary, Secretary*

Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc.
Monday, February 22, 2010
12:25 pm-3:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc. was called to order at 12:25 p.m. by President John Guskowski.

Present: John Guskowski, WLA, President
Elizabeth Rogers, NRCS
Elaine Sych, ERT
Phil Chester, WINCOG
Tom ODell, CRCCD
Margot Burns, CRERPA
David Tignonsini, CT Dept of Ag

Paula Stahl, GVI, Vice President
Tom Seidel, SECCOG
Amanda Fargo-Johnson, ERT
Jane Slupecki, CT Dept of Ag.
Wini Olsen, Essex Land Trust
Lee Szruba, TRBP

Secretary's Report:

Motion: To approve the minutes of 12/17/09

Motion Made by: Phil Chester

Seconded by: Tom ODell

Voted: Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Motion: to receive the report and place on file

Motion Made by: Paula Stahl

Seconded by: Phil Chester

Voted: Motion passed

Farm to School Program

Jane Slupecki explained the farm to school program and partnering opportunities with RC&D. The Council discussed applying for a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant to have chefs give food demonstrations using local foods at schools. The grant deadline is March 1st.

Motion: to apply for the grant

Motion Made by: Paula Stahl

Seconded by: Lee Szruba

Voted: Motion passed

Environmental Review Team:

Elaine handed out a program update and discussed several project.

The DEP allocation for the ERT program was discussed. A letter from CACD/CCSWC proposing a change in the distribution percentage amount was handed out and discussed. John read a draft response to CACD/CCSWC which stated RC&D is not in favor of a change in allocation percentages but would welcome further discussion on the issue.

Motion: to send the letter to CACD/CCSWC

Motion Made by: Phil Chester

Seconded by: Paula Stahl

Abstain: Tom Odell, Lee Szruba

Voted: Motion passed

Greenways Committee : Margot Burns

The Greenway's Committee met on 1/28. Margot provided a handout of the committee's draft recommendations for the annual plan and area plan. Council members should give Margot comments on the proposal so the committee can finalize their annual plan activities.

Livable Communities: Elaine Sych

The committee met on 2/11. Chris Donnelly, DEP, Urban Forester meet with the committee and discussed partnering opportunities. Projects discussed included working on outreach to the Tree Wardens and The America the Beautiful Grant Program. Elaine discussed the committee's ideas for the annual plan and they are working on completing the draft plan for livable communities.

Agriculture Committee: Phil Chester

The committee met on 2/19. The Forestry data base project and the Ellington-Anaerobic Digester projects are nearing completion. Grant proposal have been submitted to RD for year 2 of the CT Farm Energy Program and The Air Quality Study at Brothers Quality. The committee is working on the budget for the development of a BMP guide for Agriculture with a focus on zoning. This proposal will be submitted to NRCS for funding under their Small Grants Program.

All committees were asked to complete their annual plan recommendations by April 1st.

CT Farm Energy Program: Amanda Johnson

Amanda reported that she will be planning a workshop this summer to show producers energy efficient and renewable energy projects that have been completed using RD funding. The workshop will be held in July or August

Council on Soil and Water: Tom ODell

The Council has been focusing on DEP budget allocation.

Partner Update:

Tom ODell: The Soil and Water Conservation District has hired a new staff person who will start on March 1st.

Margot Burns: The land trust collaboration held a meeting on 1/20, they will be included on the Wildlands and Woodlands Map as the Lower CT River and Coastal Regions Land Trust Exchange. Their next meeting is March 24th and they will focus on fundraising.

New Business:

John Guskowski

- Funding Request: Celebrating Agriculture
Motion: to fund Celebrating Agriculture at the \$250 level
Motion Made by: Paula Stahl
Seconded by: Phil Chester
Voted: Motion passed
- Funding Request-ECCD for Thames River Basin Partnership
Motion: provide \$1,000 for the project
Motion Made by: Paula Stahl
Seconded by: Phil Chester
Abstain: Lee Szruba, Tom Seidel
Voted: Motion passed
- Membership Request-Working Lands Alliance
Motion: to become a member at the \$100 level
Motion Made by: Wini Olsen
Seconded by: Tom ODell
Voted: Motion passed

- Funding Request-ELN
Motion: to fund the signs at \$450
Motion Made by: Phil Chester
Seconded by: Margot Burns
Voted: Motion passed
- Forestry BMP Guide-Approval
The RC&D Council reviewed The Best Management Practices for Water Quality While Harvesting Forest Products (BMP Guide) and found it to be in compliance with the standards of the CT RC&D Forestry Committee

Old business:

- Land Trust Alliance meeting-Oct 2010-Field Trip
A request to conduct a TDF in Western CT was submitted for consideration
- RC&D Leadership Forum-March 1-2, Washington
John Guskowski and Margot Burns will be attending
- Circle of Diamonds
Paula Stahl, John Guskowski and Liz Rogers will work on the next level of Circle of Diamonds
Motion: to establish a non-smoking policy for RC&D meetings
Motion Made by: Paula Stahl
Seconded by: Wini Olsen
Voted: Motion passed
- Annual meeting/Annual Plan
The annual meeting is scheduled for June 21st
- Forestry BMP Guide-Approval

The meeting adjourned at 3:00. Next meet in scheduled for April, 20, 12:00pm, Main Street Cafe Willimantic.