



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.

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

12:00 pm-3:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc. was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by President John Guskowski.

Present: John Guskowski, WLA, President
Elizabeth Rogers, NRCS
Elaine Sych, ERT
Jim Larkin, NECCOG
Dawn Pindell, FSA
Margot Burns, CRERPA
Ray Covino, NRCS
Lee Szruba, TRBP

Barbara Kelly, NCCD, Treasurer
Tom Seidel, SECCOG
Amanda Fargo-Johnson, ERT
Norma O'Leary, ECCD
Wini Olsen, Essex Land Trust
Pat Young, Eightmile River Watershed
Tony Irving, Eightmile River Watershed

RC&D Program Review

John discussed the RC&D Program Rapid Assessment that was completed this month by Joyce Purcell, John Guskowski and Liz Rogers. Each RC&D area has to complete the assessment by May 28th. Eastern CT RC&D will be having a full program review sometime in the next few months.

Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed

Pat Young and Tony Irving discussed the history, goals and projects of the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed. They presented a request for RC&D to partner with them as the fiscal agent on a Long Island Sound Future's Fund Grant Proposal (emailed to council members prior to meeting).

Motion: To partner with the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Watershed as the fiscal agent on a Long Island Sound Future's Fund Grant Proposal

Motion Made by: Barbara Kelly

Seconded by: Margot Burns

Voted: Motion passed

Secretary's Report:

Motion: To approve the minutes of 02/22/10 with corrections

Motion Made by: Lee Szruba

Seconded by: Wini Olsen

Abstain: Jim Larkin

Voted: Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Motion: to receive the report and place on file

Motion Made by: Norma O'Leary

Seconded by: Wini Olsen

Voted: Motion passed

Barbara presented a draft budget for FY 2011 for review and discussion. Barbara will send out a revised budget in the next few weeks for final review and approval at the annual meeting in June

Environmental Review Team:

Elaine handed out a program update and discussed several projects.

The DEP allocation for the ERT program was discussed, the budget has not been finalized but a decrease is expected.

Greenways Committee : Margot Burns

The Greenway's Committee met on 3/11. Margot provided a handout of the committee's draft recommendations for the area plan. On April 22nd the committee had a meeting with Mark Goetz, NECCOG to discuss partnering on two GPS training session next fiscal year. Mark is developing a proposal for the training sessions. The Committee is planning to meet in June to continue the GPS planning and would like to meet in July with John Monroe, NPS to exploring partnering opportunities with their water trails initiative.

Livable Communities: Elaine Sych

The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 5th at the Essex town hall. Jane Slupecki, Ct Dept. of Agriculture will attend the meeting to continue discussing partnering opportunities with the Farm to School Program.

Agriculture Committee: John Guskowski

The committee met on 4/1. The Forestry data base project and the Ellington-Anaerobic Digester projects are have been completed. Grant proposals have been approved by RD for year two of the CT Farm Energy Program and The Air Quality Study at Brothers Quality. The committee submitted a proposal to NRCS under the small grants program for the development of a BMP guide for Agriculture with a focus on zoning. NRCS would like to see the application revised and resubmitted under their Contribution Agreement program. The Committee will work on the proposal. The Council received contracts from DEP to start work on the phosphorus removal project with Laurel brook Farm.

Community Supported Agriculture Proposals (CSA)

The Town of Lebanon submitted a request to the Council (emailed to council members prior to meeting) to submit a proposal for a \$1,000 grant under the New England RC&D Association's Special Project Grant program to partner with the town on CSA development in the Town. The Town has \$1,000 in matching funds for the project

Motion: to support the project

Motion Made by: Wini Olsen

Seconded by: Tom Seidel

Voted: Motion passed

Jim Hyde, NRCS would like to partner with RC&D to develop a one day workshop for producers interested in starting a CSA, the workshop would focus on business planning, marketing, success stories etc. Funding in the \$1,000 to \$2,000 range may be needed for the workshop development.

Motion: to partner on the workshop and provide funds as needed.

Motion Made by: Norma O'Leary

Seconded by: Margot Burns

Voted: Motion passed

CT Farm Energy Program: Amanda Johnson

Amanda submitted a written report of the program activities.

Council on Soil and Water: Tom ODell

No report.

Partner Update:

Margot Burns: Shared a written update of the land trust collaboration's 1/20 meeting. Their next meeting is May 19th and they will focus on fundraising.

New Business:

John Guskowski

- Brownfields

Motion: to adopt the Northeast CT Brownfields Coalition as a RC&D project

Motion Made by: Norma O'Leary

Seconded by: Wini Olson

Voted: Motion Passed

- **Request to sponsor the NE England Association RC&D Meeting Oct-28-30**

Motion: to support at the \$500 level from Ct Farm Energy and \$250 from RC&D Council

Motion Made by: Norma O'Leary

Seconded by: Margot Burns

Voted: Motion Passed

Old business:

- Circle of Diamonds: the committee has started work on the next level
- Annual meeting/Annual Plan, registration is going well, 15 seats left on the boat. John and Liz will contact the award recipients that have not sent back registrations

The meetings adjourned at 2:00, next meetings are the annual meeting on June 21st and August 9th Norwich (location TBA)