



## Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

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

Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc.  
Monday May 4, 2009  
12:50 pm-3:00 pm  
Meeting Minutes

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

Present: John Guszkowski, WLA, President	Paula Stahl, GVI
Norma O'Leary, ECCD, Secretary	Elizabeth Rogers, NRCS
Elaine Sych, ERT	Amanda Fargo-Johnson, ERT
Wini Olson, Essex Land Trust	Joyce Purcell, NRCS
Barbara Kelly, NCCD, Treasurer	Lee Szruba, TRBP

### **Farm Bill and NRCS Updates:**

Joyce Purcell provided an update on the Farm Bill programs, current program allocations and funding requests. She also discussed the status of the Emergency Watershed Protection Program Floodplain Easement applications. CT had 37 applications to the program with a request for 7.1 million dollars. The applications will be ranked in CT then sent to the NRCS National office for nationwide review, ranking and funding.

### **Secretary's Report:**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of 02/23/09 with corrections

**Motion Made by:** Norma O'Leary

**Seconded by:** Paula Stahl

**Voted:** Motion passed

### **Treasurer's Report:**

**Motion:** To accept Treasurer's report for RC&D and ERT for audit To pay the outstanding bill for the LULA program.

**Motion Made by:** Lee Szruba

**Seconded by:** Norma O'Leary

**Voted:** Motion passed

### **Environmental Review Team:**

Elaine presented a written report and provided an update on recently completed and scheduled reviews. The ERT subcommittee is working with The Soil and Water Conservation Districts, The Council on Soil and Water and CT DEP on 2010 budget issues and allocations.

### **Greenways Committee**

- SBPR: Meetings have taken place to discuss completing phase 2 of the project. Barbara Kelly will discuss the status of the funding for this project and the North Branch of the Park River at the next Council on Soil and Water meeting. The purpose is to gain support for combining funds to complete a section of the Meadow Trail.

- Blueways Committee: Liz Rogers attended a subcommittee meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>. They are developing a website that will serve as a statewide clearing house for river trails and river trail information. Other projects under consideration are a conference and two day paddling event.

#### **Livable Communities**

- Tour des Farms: on hold for this year
- LULA, spring sessions: The second spring LULA session will start on May 8<sup>th</sup> in Simsbury.
- Brownfields; The Council is waiting to hear if the Brownfield Coalition grant has been funded by EPA.

#### **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: Jennifer Kaufman has been selected to fill the AGvocate position.
  - Energy Grant: The Council did receive funding from Rural Development to work with agricultural producers on renewable and sustainable energy conservation issues
- Motion:** To enter into a resolution with Rural Development to accept the grant funds to implement the energy program.

**Motion Made by:** Barbara Kelly

**Seconded by:** Lee Szruba

**Voted:** Motion passed

EnSave will be conducting training for energy audits. Barbara Kelly said NCCD has an interest in attending. Liz Rogers will contact EnSave and provide Barbara's contact information.

**Council on Soil and Water:** The next meeting is scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **New Business:**

**John Guskowski**

- New England RC&D Meeting, Portland ME, Oct. 29-31: the meeting focus will be local foods
- Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative Application (CPI)  
**Motion:** To submit an application for the CPI program to NRCS.  
**Motion Made by:** Barbara Kelly  
**Seconded by:** Norma O'Leary  
**Voted:** Motion passed
- Policy approval: Conflict of Interest, Whistleblower, Document Retention  
**Motion:** To approve the Conflict of Interest, Whistleblower and Document Retention policies  
**Motion Made by:** Paula Stahl  
**Seconded by:** Norma O'Leary  
**Voted:** Motion passed
- Labyrinth Sign: The council will consider funding when ELN provides information on cost
- Donation Celebrating Agriculture  
**Motion:** To donate \$250.00 to Celebrating Agriculture.  
**Motion Made by:** Barbara Kelly  
**Seconded by:** Lee Szruba  
**Voted:** Motion passed

- NE RC&D Special project Grant, ideas: 3 grants of \$500 each will be awarded to projects which address energy sustainability or local food issues. Application deadline is 6/1
- EPA 319 Grant, ideas: Barbara Kelly and Liz Rogers will work on a 319 Grant for the development of a feasibility study and marketing/business plan for a regional nutrient management system in Ellington.  
**Motion:** for John Guskowski, Barbara Kelly and Norma O'Leary to investigate the need to develop a 319 grant to continue with the nutrient management project in North Canaan  
**Motion Made by:** Barbara Kelly  
**Seconded by:** Wini Olson  
**Voted:** Motion passed

**Old business:**

- National RC&D Meeting June 14-18 2009: John Guskowski will be giving a presentation at the Keynote luncheon , the topic will be innovative council leadership
- Annual Plan: information from today's capacity building meeting will be incorporated in the annual plan
- Annual Meeting: The annual meeting will be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at The Heritage Trail Vineyard, Lisbon
- Award Nominations/Annual Meeting: Awards will be presented to: Rebecca Augur for her outstanding service to the RC&D Council, Mike Rosado, NRCS, for the SBPR project, Stan Zaremba, CT DEP for grant support and Steven Winnett, US EPA for project support
- Council Nominations/Annual Meeting: The Nomination Committee recommends: John Guskowski, Council President, Paula Stahl, Vice president, Barbara Kelly Treasurer and Norma O'Leary Secretary
- FY2010 Budget: The Council discussed the draft budget for FY2010.  
**Motion:** To use the unrestricted 2008 fall conference funds to subsidize the 2009 annual meeting.  
**Motion Made by:** Paula Stahl  
**Seconded by:** Norma O'Leary  
**Voted:** Motion passed
- New England RC&D Meeting, March 28, 2009: John Guskowski discussed the meeting and the its focus on the Circle of Diamonds program.
- Approval Stimulus Package Projects: The Council reviewed the project list and approved all projects.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

Next Meeting June 22<sup>nd</sup>, The Heritage Trail Vineyard, Lisbon