



Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

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

Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc.
Monday August 24,, 2009
1:10 pm-2:50 pm
Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc. was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by President John Guszkowski.

Present: John Guszkowski, WLA, President	Paula Stahl, GVI, Vice President
Norma O'Leary, ECCD, Secretary	Elizabeth Rogers, NRCS
Elaine Sych, ERT	Amanda Fargo-Johnson, ERT
Wini Olson, Essex Land Trust	Phil Chester, WINCOG
Dawn Pindell, FSA	Ben Bowell, AFT
Margo Burns, CRERPA	Jim Larkin, NECCOG
Lois Bruinooge, LGV	Joanna Winkler, NCCD
Jennifer Kaufman, Advocate	Joanne Demars, RD

Advocate Program: Jennifer Kaufman gave an overview and update on the Advocate program. The program is being funded by a CT Department of Agriculture's, Agriculture Viability Grant. There are six towns involved in the program, Ashford, Thompson, Sterling, Brooklyn, Canterbury and Franklin.

Secretary's Report:

Motion: To approve the minutes of 06/22/09

Motion Made by: Paula Stahl

Seconded by: Norma O'Leary

Abstain: Phil Chester

Voted: Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Motion: To accept Treasurer's report for RC&D for audit

Motion Made by: Norma O'Leary

Seconded by: Margo Burns

Voted: Motion passed

Environmental Review Team:

Elaine gave an update on recently completed and scheduled reviews. The Candlewood Lake report has been completed. Reports for Darien, New Milford, Preston and Meriden are being completed. The ERT subcommittee is still 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: The Capital Region Council of Governments is working with RC&D on a proposal to gain support for combining funds to complete a section of the Meadow Trail.

- Blueways Committee: The committee is developing a website that will serve as a statewide clearing house for river trails and river trail information.

Livable Communities

- Tour des Farms: King's Mark RC&D will hold a ride on Sept 26th in Shelton. Council members interested in volunteering should contact Mark Cummings.
- LULA, spring sessions: The evaluations of the spring session were shared with the council members.
- Brownfields: The Brownfield Coalition did not receive grant funding from EPA. They have met with EPA to discuss strengthening the grant proposal for the next application period which closes mid October. The Coalition will meet later this week to work on revising the proposal.

Agriculture Committee

- Woodstock Marketing/Business Plan: The plan should be completed in the next few weeks
- North Canaan 319 Grants: The final report for the 2007 grant has been submitted to DEP. A Workshop was held on July 16th at Laurel Brook Farm to showcase the composting operation. Approximately 80 people attended the tour.
- CT Farm Energy Grant: Amanda Fargo-Johnson provided an update on the program. A workshop is planned for November 5th, to provide agricultural producers with information on the grant program. The workshop will be held at the Norwich Service Center in the morning and at the Brooklyn Agricultural Center in the afternoon.

Council on Soil and Water: no report

Partner Update: Margo Burns, discussed a Land Trust Coalition meeting that is planned for Sept 16 at 7:00. Dawn Pindell discussed Celebrating Agriculture which will be held Saturday Sept 26.

New Business:

John Guskowski

- Forestry Projects, NRCS is interested in funding Small Grant and Contribution Agreement Proposals. Several proposals have been developed for funding consideration: Norma O'Leary and Liz Rogers have been working with Tom Worthley at UConn extension on 3 forestry project proposals, John Guskowski, Barbara Kelly and Liz Rogers have been working with Dennis Milanovich in Ellington on a dairy nutrient management proposal, Liz Rogers has been working with the Horse Committee on a equine proposal and John Guskowski is working with The Town of Putnam on a proposal to evaluate the environmental impacts of water drawdown for public drinking water supply.
Motion: To submitted the six proposals to NRCS for funding consideration
Motion Made by: Norma O'Leary
Seconded by: Phil Chester
Abstain: Jim Larkin
Voted: Motion passed
- Partner with Berkshire Pioneer RC&D on Carbon Credit Program, this issue was tabled, more information is needed.
- Legislative Update-RC&D funding; John Guskowski gave a update, future funding issues are being discussed
- Membership Renewal: NACD,
Motion: To pay \$50 in dues to NACD
Motion Made by: Phil Chester
Seconded by: Norma O'Leary
Voted: Motion passed
- Membership Renewal: League of American bicyclists, The Council decided not to renew the membership this year

Old business:

- New England RC&D Meeting, Portland ME, Oct 29-31, Council members interested in attending should complete the registration form and submit it to the RC&D office. The following are planning to attend the meeting: John Guskowski, Paula Stahl and Wini Olsen from the council, Elaine Sych and Amanda Fargo-Johnson from ERT d and Liz Rogers from NRCS.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50. Next meet in scheduled for 12:00pm, October 26, (lunch provided) at the Brooklyn RC&D office