



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 October 26, 2009 12:15 pm-3:00 pm Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc. was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by President John Guskowski.

Present: John Guskowski, 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
Tom ODell, CRCCD	Ben Bowell, AFT
Margot Burns, CRERPA	Lois Bruinooge, LGV
Barbara Kelly, NCCD, Treasurer	Lee Szruba, TRBP
Joyce Purcell, NRCS	Joanne Demars, RD
Tom Seidel, SECCOG	

Farm Bill and NRCS Updates: Joyce Purcell provided updates on the 2009 and 2010 farm Bill programs. She shared information on the Agricultural Energy and Forest Management Plans for 2010. There may be an opportunity to partner with the RC&D Council's Farm Energy Program and the NRCS Agricultural Energy Management Plan initiative.

Secretary's Report:

Motion: To approve the minutes of 08/24/09

Motion Made by: Norma O'Leary

Seconded by: Paula Stahl

Voted: Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

The Council will ask Heidi to revise the treasurer's report and submit a report for September and October. The reports will be emailed to council members.

Environmental Review Team:

Elaine gave an update on recently completed and scheduled reviews. The Candlewood Lake report has been completed. Reports for Darien, Milford, Preston and Meriden are being completed. The ERT subcommittee will meet with The Soil and Water Conservation Districts, The Council on Soil and Water and CT DEP to discuss the 2010 budget issues and allocations.

Greenways Committee

- SBPR: No progress on phase 2 of the project.
- Blueways Committee: The committee has developed a website that will serve as a statewide clearing house for river trails and river trail information.

Livable Communities

- LULA, spring sessions: There will be one spring session of LULA. Funding for the session will be provided by NRCS and The Greater New Haven Community Foundation.
- Brownfields: The Brownfield Coalition has been disbanded. The grant project is being submitted by The CT Department of Economic and Community Development.

Agriculture Committee

- Woodstock Marketing/Business Plan: The grant has been completed and accepted by CT DEP.
- North Canaan 319 Grants: The 2007 grant has been completed and accepted by CT DEP.
- Forestry-Small Grant Project-NRCS: the Council has received a grant for \$9,680 under NRCS's Small Grant Program for the creation of a database for small forest landowners (10 acres+)
- Ellington-Anaerobic Digester-Contribution Grant-NRCS: The Council entered into a Contribution Agreement with NRCS for \$25,000 for a feasibility study for an anaerobic digester in Ellington.
- AGvocate: A workshop for the Agvocate program is scheduled for November 30th. The CT Agriculture Viability grant program will be held, deadline for applications is November 13th.

Motion: To submitted a grant or support the submission of a grant for the continuation of the Agvocate program.

Motion Made by: Norma O'Leary

Seconded by: Phil Chester

Voted: Motion Passed

Motion: To submitted a grant or support the submission of a grant for an economic impact analysis for dairy farms

Motion Made by: Wini Olson

Seconded by; Lee Szruba

Voted: motion Passed

- CT Farm Energy Grant: Amanda Fargo-Johnson discussed the program at a town meeting in North Stonington, approximately 60 people attended the meeting. 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:

The Council will be meeting next week, the meeting focus will be the DEP budget allocation.

Partner Update:

- Margot Burns, presented a request for funding the CRERPA/Gateway land Trust Collaboration Initiative. A discussion followed on the need to set policy and guidelines for allocation funds to projects. A committee was formed to develop a draft policy for the next meeting. Committee members are: Tom O'Dell, John Guskowski, Barbara Kelly, Joanne Demars and Liz Rogers. All funding requests were tabled until the policy adoption at the December meeting.

Motion: To change the name of the budget line item from "grants and donations" to 'project support'.

Motion Made by: Phil Chester

Seconded by: Norma O'Leary

Voted: Motion Passed

- Joanne Demars reported that Logees Greenhouse in Killingly was funded by Rural Development for an energy efficiency improvement project.

- Lois Bruinooge reported the Last Green Valley is developing a 10 year management Plan, 2010-2020. Walter Smith will be facilitating a planning session on November 12 at 12:30 in the Brooklyn Agricultural Center
- Tom O'Dell reported that CRCCD has updated its website and the website for the CT River Watch Project
- Barbara Kelly provided an update on the Bolton Lake Authority sewer connection and greenway project.

New Business:

John Guskowski

- Support Letter-Consolidated Land, Energy & Aquatic Resources Act 2009
Motion: To write a letter of support
Motion Made by: Lee Szruba
Seconded by: Norma O'Leary
Voted: Motion passed
- Funding Request-Community Gardens- CRERPA--tabled
- RC&D Committee-sign-ups: **Agricultural Committee:** Lois Bruinooge, Norma O'Leary, Barbara Kelly, Amanda Johnson, Phil Chester, Joanne Demars, Ben Bowell, Tom O'Dell, Paula Stahl, John Guskowski **Livable Communities:** Margot burns, Elaine Sych, Wini Olson, John Guskowski, **Greenways:** Lois Bruinooge, Margot burns, Tom O'Dell, Tom Seidel, John Guskowski
- Sponsor Soil & Water Conservation Society-Winter Meeting--tabled
- Holiday Meeting with Kings Mark RC&D—King's Mark will be asked to select a date

Old business:

- New England RC&D Meeting, Portland ME, Oct 29-31: 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 and Liz Rogers from NRCS.
- Partner with Berkshire Pioneer RC&D on Carbon Credit Program
Motion: To write a letter of support for the program
Motion Made by: Lee Szruba
Seconded by: Wini Olson
Abstain: Norma O'Leary
Voted: Motion passed

The meeting adjourned at 3:00. Next meet in scheduled for December 17th, 12:00pm, in Willimantic.