

Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

139 Wolf Den Road Brooklyn CT 06234 Phone (860)774-0224 ext 4

Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc.

Monday October 29, 2007

1:00-3:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

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

Present: John Guskowski, President
Norma O'Leary, Secretary
Elaine Sych, ERT
Paula Stahl, Council Member
Lee Szruba, Council member

Rebecca Augur, CRCOG, Vice President
Elizabeth Rogers, NRCS
Amanda Fargo-Johnson, ERT
Barbara Kelly, NCCD, Treasurer
Wini Olson, Council Member

Secretary's Report:

Motion: To approve the minutes of 08/27/07 with corrections

Motion Made by: Norma O'Leary

Seconded by: Lee Szruba

Voted: Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Motion: To accept Treasurer's report as submitted

Motion Made by: Rebecca Augur

Seconded by: Wini Olson

Voted: Motion passed

The Council requested a dated close out report for Fiscal Year 2007 for the RC&D and ERT programs to be made available. The report will be emailed to council members.

Environmental Review Team:

Elaine Sych submitted a written report and discussed the status of requested and conducted reviews.

Greenways:

South Branch of the Park River (SBPR): The Council has received sign contracts from DEP and The Flood certification for the SBPR. A meeting will be held in Hartford on November 6th to discuss the next steps of the project.

Workshops: Paula Stahl reported on the workshop series that is being sponsored by RC&D and the Green Valley Institute. The first workshop of the Advanced Approaches to Land Protection series was held September 19th and approximately 45 people attended, the second workshop is scheduled for Tuesday October 30th and 55 people have registered. A third workshop in the series which will address Transfer of Development Rights is scheduled for November 28th.

North Branch of the Park River (NBPR): John Guskowski reported that he had spoken with David Stygar of DEP about the NBPR. There is \$50,000 available to the council in grant money for a bridge construction project. The funding is not sufficient to construct the project and a committee will meet with DEP to discuss alternative projects along the NBPR. The committee members are Barbara Kelly, John Guskowski, Rebecca Augur and Liz Rogers.

Livable Communities:

Tour des Farms: This year's Tour des Farms held on September 29th in Glastonbury was very successful, 75 bikers participated in the ride. The tentative date for next year's ride is September 13th. The Council

received The Pathfinder award for CT Tour des Farms awarded by the CT Trustees for The Big E. The Council will make a donation to WLA at their annual meeting from the income from this year's ride.

Motion: To donate \$3,000 to Working Lands Alliance

Motion Made by: Barbara Kelly

Seconded by: Paula Stahl

Voted: Motion passed

The Council expressed concern regarding the amount of funds that are going to farmland protection or sustainable agriculture from the TDF ride sponsored by King's Mark RC&D.

Motion: To contact King's Mark RC&D and ask them to consider supporting farmland protection and sustainable agriculture programs with a portion of the revenue from TDF.

Motion Made by: Barbara Kelly

Seconded by: Rebecca Augur

Voted: Motion passed

John Guskowski will contact King's Mark RC&D.

LULA: The Council has received a \$35,000 grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for LULA. The grant money will be used to leverage other funds to conduct two LULA sessions in the spring of 2008. Currently a Ct Dept of Agriculture grant is being prepared for a fall 2008 LULA session. The grant is due November 16th.

Middletown Agriculture Viability Grant: There is a wrap up meeting on the grant scheduled for October 30th. Rebecca Augur will find out if there is anything more RC&D needs to do to complete their obligation under the grant.

Agriculture Committee:

Woodstock Feasibility Study: The RFP for the business Plan and Marketing Study has been developed. Applications will be taken until the end of November. The RC&D Council has asked for a grant extension until September 30, 2008.

Willingness to Pay Survey and Woodstock Feasibility Study: The RC&D Council and GVI are partnering on a series of workshops on land use issues. The first workshop was held September 19th highlighted the results of the Willingness to Pay Survey, Woodstock Feasibility Study and the Fiscal Impact study for Lebanon. The final report for the project is being prepared.

Council on Soil and Water:

The next meeting is scheduled for November 8th. Barbara will ask The Council to provide assistance with the fall 2008 New England RC&D Meeting.

New Business:

John Guskowski

- **Council Liability Insurance, quote**
The Council discussed the insurance quote. John Guskowski and Lee Szruba will research the issue further.
- **Nora Painten, funding request**
The Council decided not to fund the request for funding for an agricultural study project in Costa Rica. John Guskowski will contact Ms. Painten.
- **National Leadership Meeting, February 2008**
John Guskowski will be attending the meeting. The Council asked Amanda Fargo-Johnson to consider attending the meeting.
- **December meeting with Kings Mark**
The meeting is scheduled for December 20th, 6:00PM at the Wallingford Service Center.
- **Request for \$400.00 to pay New England RC&D Dues**
Motion: To pay the New England RC&D
Motion Made by: Paula Stahl
Seconded by: Norma O'Leary

Voted: Motion passed

- **Ct Department of Agriculture Grant, Walter Smith**

Walter Smith submitted a proposal called VISA: Volunteers in Service to Agriculture for the council to consider as a project. The Council discussed the proposal and felt it would compliment other projects. John Guskowski will contact Walter about discussing additional partnering opportunities.

Old business:

- **New England Association of RC&D Fall Conference 2008, CT**

The next planning meeting for the fall conference is scheduled for November 28th 1:30PM at the RC&D Office.

- **New England Association of RC&D 2007 fall Conference
October 18-20, Rhode Island**

Norma O'Leary and Rebecca Augur provided a meeting update.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 7th at the Brooklyn RC&D office.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm