



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.
Thursday, December 17, 2009
12:30 pm-3:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council, Inc. was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by President John Guskowski.

Present: John Guskowski, WLA, President	Paula Stahl, GVI, Vice President
Elizabeth Rogers, NRCS	Tom Seidel, SECCOG
Elaine Sych, ERT	Amanda Fargo-Johnson, ERT
Phil Chester, WINCOG	Joyce Purcell, NRCS
Tom ODell, CRCCD	Ben Bowell, AFT
Margot Burns, CRERPA	Barbara Kelly, NCCD Treasurer
Janice Meyer, CRERPA	

Farm Bill and NRCS Updates: Joyce Purcell provided updates on the NRCS budget and Farm Bill programs. NRCS has received sufficient funding in this year's budget for the CT RC&D program. S

Secretary's Report:

Motion: To approve the minutes of 10/26/09, with corrections

Motion Made by: Tom ODell

Seconded by: Tom Seidel

Voted: Motion passed

Motion: To approve the minutes of 11/12/09 special meeting, with corrections

Motion Made by: Paula Stahl

Seconded by: Margot Burns

Voted: Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Motion: to receive the report and place on file

Motion Made by: Paula Stahl

Seconded by: Tom ODell

Voted: Motion passed

Environmental Review Team:

Elaine gave an update on recently completed and scheduled reviews. There is a new request for a 15 acre subdivision in East Hampton, which needs to be reviewed by the subcommittee

Greenways Committee : Margot Burns

Margot provided a handout of the committee's draft recommendations for the annual plan and potential projects for the coming year.

Livable Communities: Elaine Sych

Elaine discussed the committee's ideas for the annual plan and the addition of a Farm to School initiative. RC&D is working on this issue at a regional and national level. Jane Slupecki, CT DOA has been working on this project and will be invited to the next council meeting to discuss how the program

Agriculture Committee: Phil Chester

Phil discussed some projects the committee would like to pursue in the coming year.

The committee would like to request funding from NRCS's small grant program to develop a BMP guide for Agriculture with a focus on zoning. This would be an outreach tool for local communities and agricultural producers.

Motion: To request funding to develop the guide

Motion Made by: Barbara Kelly

Seconded by: Paula Stahl

Voted: motion passed

The committee would like to pursue grant funding through Rural Development to work on an air quality study for Brother's Quality. The study which is required by CT DEP will be a step in getting the processing plant back as a viable option for livestock producers.

Motion: To pursue funding for the study

Motion Made by: Phil Chester

Seconded by: Barbara Kelly

Voted: motion passed

The Council received funding for year two of the Advocate program from The CT Dept. of Agriculture's, Agriculture Viability Grant Program.

CT Farm Energy Program: Amanda Johnson

A workshop was held November 5th, to provide agricultural producers with information on the grant program. Amanda is working on the Ct Farm Assistance workshop which will be held 1/26 in Lebanon. The CT Farm Energy program, Advocate and USDA programs will be highlighted at the workshop.

Amanda asked the Council to consider submitting a grant to Rural Development for year 2 funding of the CT Farm Energy program

Motion: To request funding for the program

Motion Made by: Barbara Kelly

Seconded by: Phil Chester

Voted: motion passed

Amanda asked the council to consider requesting funding through Rural Development for the development of an interactive web program that farmers can use to determine the cost benefits of installing a methane digester.

Motion: To request funding for the project

Motion Made by: Phil Chester

Seconded by: Barbara Kelly

Voted: motion passed

Council on Soil and Water: Barbara Kelly

The Council has been focusing on DEP budget allocation.

Partner Update:

Tom Odell: The Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual meeting is this Friday. He also reported that DEP is considering a big celebration for the 40th Earth Day anniversary in 2010.

Ben Bowell: AFT has received funding for their Farmland Connections project through The CT Dept. of Agriculture's, Agriculture Viability Grant Program. WLA will hold a conference on 3/27, details will be available soon.

New Business:

John Guskowski

- **Land Trust Alliance meeting-Oct 2010-Field Trip**
The land trust is looking for ideas for field trips for their Oct 2-3 meeting. Margot has been working with a committee on this project
- **Standing Committee Budget Requests-Should they be included in FY11 Budget**
Standing committee's will develop budget requests for the FY11 budget year
- **RC&D Leadership Forum-March 1-2, Washington**
John and Margot will attend the meeting
- **Form Annual meeting Committee**
Margot, Paula, Amanda, Liz, John

Old business:

- **Project Support Policy**
Motion: to approve the project support policy
Motion Made by: Paula Stahl
Seconded by: Tom Odell
Voted: approved
- **Funding Request-Community Gardens- CRERPA**
Motion: to approve the project
Motion Made by: Tom ODell
Seconded by: Tom Seidel
Voted: denied
- **Funding Request –Gateway Land Trust Collaboration Initiative-CRERPA**
Motion: to approve the project for \$2,514.00
Motion Made by: Paula Stahl
Seconded by: Tom Odell
Voted: approved

The meeting adjourned at 3:00. Next meet in scheduled for February, 22,12:00pm, in Willimantic.