



CONNECTICUT

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT
1066 Saybrook Road
Haddam, Connecticut 06438

*John Guskowski, President
Judy Rondeau, Vice President
Barbara Kelly, Treasurer
Margot Burns, Secretary*

Meeting Minutes Thursday 9/26/17, 1 – 3pm Tolland County Agricultural Center

Board Members in Attendance: John Guskowski, Margot Burns, Lynne Pike DiSanto, Barbara Kelly, Aaron Budris, Mark Goetz, Lois Bruinooge, Jim Sipperly, Rebecca Andreucci

Board Members not in Attendance Judy Rondeau, Jim Costello, Matt Fulda, Sal Decarli, Francis Pickering, MaryEllen Kowalewski, Mark Nielsen, Jim Larkin

Other Attendees: Jeanne Davies, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Andrea Peres, Rosa Browne, Clark Chapin

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 1:06pm.

Secretary's Report

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes of 6/15/17.

Motion made by: Aaron Budris

Seconded by: Barbara Kelly

Voted: Motion passed. Abstain – Jim Sipperly

President's Report

The organization is continuing to move forward but there are challenges ahead in which we need full board participation to achieve the long term viability of the organization.

Treasurer's Report:

Barbara Kelly presented the financial statements.

Motion: To receive financial reports as presented.

Motion made by: Margot Burns

Seconded by: Lois Bruinooge

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

Lynn Pike DiSanto and Rosa Browne joined at 1:13

Partner Updates:

CRCOG – Working to update regional economic development, natural hazards mitigation and long range transportation plans including integrating the new towns into these plans.

Working Lands Alliance – Working on state budget and maintaining independence of the Dept. of Agriculture.

Last Green Valley and partners in three states obtained a \$6.1 million NRCS grant for conservation easements, forest conservation plans, and equipment.

CFPA – Fall photo contest is underway.

Conservation Districts – Working on farmland restoration with the Dept. of Agriculture.

COG's – Reminder of workshops and public comment period for State Plan of Conservation and Development.

Agricultural Program:

Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) from USDA NRCS has been awarded. This grant will allow for two no-till and cover crop equipment hubs to be sited at geographically diverse locations in the state. The equipment will be available for use by selected agriculture producers. RCD currently has an RFP out for interested farmers to apply.

Compost Heat Recovery Pilot Project is currently under way at the selected farm, Collins Powder Hill Farm in Enfield, CT. The project is first of its kind in CT and will use heat from the system in the dairy operation.

Hosted a Soil Health Workshop in July 2017 at Valleyside Farm in Woodstock, CT with a good attendance.

Currently planning an organic focused Soil Health workshop for November 2017. .

Farm Energy Staff have been involved in providing comments to CT DEEP on the proposed Comprehensive Energy Strategy Plan. Additionally, are following virtual net metering discussions with regards to the new legislation that includes anaerobic digesters.

CT Farm Energy successfully helped 11 farms apply for USDA Rural Development REAP grants in March 2017. All were funded, in total securing \$436,032.00 in grant dollars when leveraged equate to 1.9 million in total energy project costs.

Executive Director Report:

Thomaston ERT has been scheduled.

Job Jump Start program – there were 2 positions available. 1 has been filled and 1 remains to be filled. There has been an Ag business intern hired. Philip Horning.

Discussion occurred for the Rural Lands / Rural Towns conference, the new website launch, and the Tour de Farms for 2018 fundraiser.

Jeanne is looking into the CT Innovations and SBIR Grants.

There will be a full council meeting on December 12th.

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 2:57pm.

Motion made by: Barbara Kelly

Seconded by: Mark Goetz

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Margot Burns, Secretary

