



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
Tuesday 08/21/18, 2:00 – 4:00pm
RC&D Office, 1066 Saybrook Rd., Haddam, CT

Board Members in Attendance: Lois Bruinooge, John Guskowski, Margot Burns, Rick Huntley, Justin LaFountain, Lynne Pike DiSanto, Joanna Shapiro, Judy Rondeau, Rebecca Andreucci, Mark Goetz, Jim Costello, Rosa Brown

Board Members not in Attendance: Aaron Budris, Jim Sipperly, Matt Fulda, Mark Nielsen, Jim Larkin, Francis Pickering, Barbara Kelly

Other: Jeanne Davies, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Andrea Peres, Taijah Anderson

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 2:05pm and noted that there was a quorum.

Secretary's Report:

Motion: To accept the June 13, 2018 annual meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by: Justin LaFountain

Seconded by: Rick Huntley

Voted: Motion passed.

President's Report:

John reported on the success of the annual meeting held in June at Allen Hill Tree Farm in Brooklyn, CT.

Treasurer's Report:

Investment account at the same level as last year.

Motion: To approve the draft profit and loss statement.

Motion made by: Rick Huntley

Seconded by: Justin LaFountain

Voted: Motion unanimously.

Staff is looking at opening an account at a new bank with the ability to have automatic payments. Liberty Bank and Essex Savings Bank being considered. The Council discussed the merits of each bank. Essex Savings Bank would provide good service in investment and a new Council member for CTRC&D. Liberty Bank had more up-to-date accounting services for payroll and are good in investment services. There is still a question on the availability of a senior staff person from Liberty for the CTRC&D Council.

Motion: To have staff open an account with Liberty Bank contingent on a senior employee sitting on the CTRC&D Council.

Motion made by: Rick Huntley

Seconded by: Judy Rondeau

Voted: Motion unanimously.

Approval of Mission Statement:

Motion: To approve the version proposed by Judy - Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development enhances our agriculture, natural resources, and economy by cultivating partnership-driven solutions for a diverse and resilient Connecticut.

Motion made by: Judy Rondeau

Seconded by: Rick Huntly

Voted: Motion unanimously.

Tour de Farms:

Tour de Farms will be held Oct. 6th in Litchfield. There will be a planning call Sept. 6th from 3-4pm . Andrea will send out TDF volunteer task list. Seeking assistance from the CTRC&D Councilmembers who are available that day and also have names for potential volunteers. Also looking for coolers to store food. It was noted that this is CTRC&D primary fundraiser to support our Agriculture program and that government grants alone cannot support the needs of the program.

CACEE Report:

Final reports came in) the Conway School. The Town of Haddam employed F&O to perform comprehensive analysis and Phase II Environmental Report for the Scovil Property, as well as a marketing study and site improvement feasibility. The F&O report included that the combined costs of brownfield cleanup, site and building rehabilitation and site redevelopment would cost approximately \$17 million. The CACEE report concluded that the Scovil Hoe site would be an optimal site to explore for the CACEE center given the amount of analysis completed for the site/buildings to date. The Council agreed to talk further with the Town of Haddam concerning the site. CACEE committee would likely become a task force with an expansion of membership from interested individuals who can contribute to the project.

Bylaws Revision:

The draft new bylaw revisions support a 3 committee structure. Jeanne will send out a reformatted document and asked for questions or revisions to be sent within 2 weeks.

Procurement Policy:

Discussion about policy as designed by the Contracts Committee (Rick, John, Rosa Jim S) was focused comments that included concern for creating a list of state vendors and qualifications list to reduce the need for processing an RFQ or an RFP for standard items or contract services

ERT and Environmental Programs:

Discussion concerned how to make the ERT program more relevant and how to leverage Fed funding in terms of working on a source water protection plan. ERTs' need to be transparent with defined deliverables and a clear link to the mission of the ERT program, Conservation Districts need to comment. Justin and Mark volunteered to work as ERT Oversight Committee to help staff update new protocols and modernize the ERT program services for municipalities.

Agriculture Programs Update:

Soil health workshop hosted at Oakridge Dairy in Ellington, CT on August 9, 2018 focused on dairy farms with 50 attendees and concludes this round of NRCS funding. Currently applying to USDA NRCS for additional funding to continue the Soil Health Initiative. Two roller crimpers have been delivered to both host farms as part of the CIG No-till/Cover Crop Equipment Hub Pilot. Second training day to be scheduled for August 24th. Recent CT Farm Energy Program projects completed include Woodmansee Farm in Preston, CT installed solar and Monrovia Farm in Granby, CT made energy efficiency upgrades. For the CT Geothermal Pilot Program, a technical consultant has been hired to provide 18 geothermal farm assessment as part of the REDA grant deliverable. CT RC&D signed a contract with SCRCOG for upcoming project in the Greater New Haven Region. CT RC&D signed contracts with subcontractors for the recently received CT Department of Agriculture viability grant to update the Livestock manual and create GIS AG Needs Analysis. CT RC&D also has processed closeout paperwork with RiverCOG on a previously awarded CT Department of Agriculture grant.

Other Business:

Update on the Farm Bill given by Taijah Anderson of Congressman Courtney's office. Discussion concerning the separation of the annual meeting from the rural lands conference. Board to reach out to Bill Kowalski from Durham to become a board member.

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 3:56.

Motion made by: Rick Huntley

Seconded by: Jim Costello

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Margot Burns, Secretary