



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 11/13/18, 12:00 – 2:30 RC&D Office, 1066 Saybrook Rd., Haddam, CT

Board Members in Attendance: John Guskowski, Jim Sipperly, Margot Burns, Justin LaFountain, Lynne Pike DiSanto, Judy Rondeau, Mark Goetz, Joanna Shapiro

Board Members not in Attendance: Rick Huntley, Matt Fulda, Mark Nielsen, Jim Larkin, Rebecca Andreucci, Rosa Brown, Jim Costello, Aaron Budris, Lois Bruinooge

Other: Jeanne Davies, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Andrea Peres, Javier Cruz

Secretary's Report:

Motion: To accept the, 10/23/18 meeting minutes and the 10/23/18 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by: Margot Burns

Seconded by: Justin LaFountain

Voted: Motion passed unanimously

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 12:11pm and noted that there was a quorum. Discussion concerned the loss of New England RC&D Councils. There are only 3 left besides CT RC&D; Maine, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. Thoughts to help the situation is to consider caucus with the mid-Atlantic RC&D, add at large members that live outside of CT to the council. All council members should be actively searching for new members and bring suggestions to the January meeting. Andrea provided about 60 donor holiday thank you cards for council members to sign.

Treasurer's Report:

It was reported by Jeanne that Liberty Bank had sent a letter and that they do not have someone that is able to serve on the board at this time. Staff will keep looking for a bank that will support us. The ERT program had received a \$50,000 payment from OPM. Final figures for the Tur des Farms were should be available for next month's meeting.

Bylaws Committee:

Comments concerning bylaw revisions were offered by those present. RiverCOG asked for an extension of time to review bylaws document and that we should wait to send to them to the attorney for review so that all edits could be received and reviewed. Also it was decided that the draft bylaws could be sent to a pro-bono attorney for a preliminary look.

Motion: To give the board a month to review and send comment before sending to the attorney.

Motion made by: Jim Sipperly

Seconded by: Judy Rondeau

Voted: Motion passed unanimously

Procurement Procedures:

Will report on at next meeting.

Environmental Programs Update:

ERT funding has been received. ERT requests and proposals include Curtis Woods Open Space Management Plans; Bloomfield and University of Hartford; Bristol Park and Rec Natural Resource Inventory; 12 town Airline Trail application; and source water protection plan and process; web site and platform for Arc GIS to deliver ERT results.

Agriculture Program Update:

- Kick off meeting was held for the Greater New Haven Regional Rural & Urban Agriculture Collaborative on 10.25.18 at the South Central Regional Council of Governments. There was a good turnout with a variety of stakeholders including the CT Department of Agriculture Commissioner, RC&D received good feedback and will work on next steps of the project.
- Update on the USDA NRCS CIG No-Till Cover Crop Equipment Hub Program at Mtn Dairy and Sub Edge, farmers at each hub are busy using the no-till drill for planting cover crops this fall. RC&D has received calls from additional farmers seeking to get into the hubs.
- Compost Heat Recovery Pilot Project has concluded, the final report and one-page summary is available on the CT Farm Energy website and available in printed form too for distribution.
- CT Farm Energy Program recently assisted 4 farms to apply to USDA Rural Development's REAP grant program deadline of October 31, 2018.
- USDA Rural Development REDA grant is under way. These funds are being used to implement a new CT Farm Energy Geothermal Pilot Program. To date there have been 10 farms who've applied to receive a free geothermal assessment. Of those 9 have been approved, waiting on additional documentation for the 10th. Most of the 9 that have been approved have received a site visit and draft report from RC&D geothermal contractor, Peter Tavino of Litchfield Geothermal. RC&D will be hosting an educational workshop on geothermal and energy efficiency on December 5, 2018 in partnership with Energize CT and the North Central Conservation District at Lost Acres Vineyard in Granby, CT from 6-7:30 pm.

Tour Des Farms:

Andrea reported that the event had 136 riders. Feedback from riders and participating farms was very good. Andrea and Jeanne would like us to start planning for next year now and consider moving the event to a closer venue.

CACEE Center Update:

Jeanne reported that Haddam has submitted the Brownfield's Grant for the Scovil site to the state DECD.

Partnership Coordination:

Javier Cruz reported that they expect funding for this year to remain level with last year and that they have received EQUIP and AMA (?) for 2019. This year NRCS is working to streamline their programs and make them more user friendly.

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 2:08

Motion made by: Judy Rondeau

Seconded by: Margot Burns

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Margot Burns, Secretary