



# 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 1/15/19, 12:30 – 3:00**  
**SCCOG, 5 Connecticut Ave., Norwich, CT and Conference Call**

**Board Members in Attendance:** John Guskowski, Jim Sipperly, Margot Burns, Justin LaFountain, Judy Rondeau, Lois Bruinooge, Rosa Brown (1:30), Jim Costello (call), Joanna Shapiro, Lynne Pike DiSanto (call)

**Board Members not in Attendance:** Rick Huntley (was on the call?), Mark Goetz, Aaron Budris, Matt Fulda, Mark Nielsen, Jim Larkin, Rebecca Andreucci

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

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 12:34pm and noted that there was a quorum.

**Secretary's Report:**

**Motion:** To accept the, 12/11/18 meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion made by:** Jim Sipperly

**Seconded by:** Judy Rondeau

**Voted:** Motion passed, Lynne Pike DiSanto abstention

**President's Report:**

John reported that there had been 2 new staff hired, Jane Flynn as financial administrator for 15-20 hrs. a week, and Riley Doherty as Environmental Assistant who will work with Jeanne on ERT's and the website. Andrea Peres will be cutting back to 10hrs. a week. Discussion concerned the greenway trails planning grant that was received for the Air Line Trail and the executive committee meeting concerning adding medical insurance and endowment funding to next years budget.

**Treasurer's Report and Executive Directors Report:**

Discussion concerned the transition from Paula Fernald to the new financial administrator Jane Flynn, and that all was going well. There was a need to appoint a representative to the Council of Soil and Water which meets quarterly with Barbara Kelly no longer on the RC&D representing at the meetings. It was decided to have Jeanne be the designee and she would invite the new Council Executive Director to an RC&D meeting.

**Motion:** to appoint Jeanne as RC&D Representative to the Council on Soil and Water and ask Lilly Ruiz to meeting as a partner.

**Motion made by:** Jim Sipperly

**Seconded by:** Judy Rondeau

**Voted:** Motion approved unanimously.

The new bylaws will be sent out prior to February meeting for review and a vote in March, and the procurement policy will be sent out for a vote in February. The office lease at UConn Extension was resigned for another year.

**Environmental Program Update:**

Discussion about Riley beginning the process of upgrading the ERT website and Jeanne reported that the Curtis Woodlands ERT was going to the consultants and that work was going to begin on Bloomfield and the University of Hartford ERT's.

**Agricultural Program Update:**

CT Farm Energy Program was interviewed by Timber Pro for an article about the program and the Collins Compost Heat Recovery Project. CT Farm Energy is providing UConn turf professor assistance with a BMP guide for golf courses in relation to energy efficiency measures. RC&D will be submitting this week the USDA RD REDA grant proposal in partnership with EnSave for a grant in the amount of \$88,000 to provide 20 energy audits to greenhouses and other CT farms. Staff is currently working on Soil Health Workshop planning with USDA NRCS staff. A silvopasture/agroforestry workshop is being planned for 2019. Working on the SCRCOG/DOAG project and planning.

Locations for Tour des Farms this year are being considered. They currently include the northeast corner and the RiverCOG region either the weekend of September 21 or September 28, 2019. Margot, John, Rosa and Jim agreed to participate as TDF committee members.

**Council Members New Ideas and Updates:**

Discussion concerned ideas on how to involve minorities in CT RC&D activities, could NAACP help. Fresh New London and "Our Roots" in Holyoke, MA were discussed as good examples. Discussion also concerned support of the fee bill, and reaching out to the new Governor and administration. Other areas of interest included: the airline trail, industrial hemp production, invasive species, brownfields and land banks, working on alternative uses for manure and phosphorus management, CACEE Center locations and possible partnership with CT Landmarks, timber bridge projects, HEAP program re-introduction, new areas of field management, and new technologies for farmers with NRCS.

Jeanne introduced ideas for our Rural Lands / Rural Towns annual meeting.

**Motion:** to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 pm

**Motion made by:** Jim Sipperly

**Seconded by:** Justin LaFountain

**Voted:** Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margot Burns, Secretary