



# CONNECTICUT

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT  
1066 Saybrook Road  
Haddam, Connecticut 06438

*John Guskowski, President  
Judy Rondeau, Vice President  
Margot Burns, Secretary*

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 2/27/19, 12:30 – 3:30

UConn Extension Center, 1066 Saybrook Road, Haddam, CT and Conference Call

12:30PM – 2:30PM PARTNERSHIP TO PROGRAMS WORKSHOP

2:30PM – 3:30PM Business Meeting

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

**Board Members not in Attendance:** Mark Goetz, Matt Fulda, Mark Nielsen, Jim Larkin, Rebecca Andreucci, Margot Burns

**Other:** Jeanne Davies, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Andrea Peres, Riley Doherty and Javier Cruz (USDA NRCS)

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 2:34pm and noted that there was a quorum.

### Secretary's Report:

**Motion:** To accept the 1/15/19 meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion made by:** Jim Sipperly

**Seconded by:** Judy Rondeau

**Voted:** Motion passed unanimously.

### President's Report:

John reported.

### Bylaws Committee:

Board members were given a copy of the final draft By-laws for review and it was noted that they could be adopted at next month's board meeting.

### Procurement Policy:

Final copy had been distributed to Council members for review.

**Motion:** to adopt the Final Draft of CT RC&D procurement policies.

**Motion made by:** Rick Huntley

**Seconded by:** James Sipperly

**Voted:** Motion approved unanimously.

### MOU with CT Conservation Districts:

Jeanne discussed the MOU draft to be sent out to Conservation Districts in coordination with P2P funds.

**Motion:** to enter MOU as presented with all 5 CT Conservation Districts.

**Motion made by:** Rick Huntley

**Seconded by:** Lynne Pike DiSanto.

Discussion ensued among the board members and staff.

**Voted:** All in favor, Judy Rondeau and Joanna Shapiro abstained.

### **Scholarships and Award Nomination- Annual Meeting:**

Jeanne presented the information on both the 2019 Scholarship program and Award Nomination deadlines.

Both to be presented at the upcoming CT RC&D Annual Meeting in June 2019.

### **Agricultural Program Update:**

Update from Amanda.

- Media – AG programs director was interviewed for two articles. One about the Compost Heat Recovery Project at Collins farm with Energy News Network (a national media outlet) a copy of the article is circulated. The second was with Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association for the TimberPro Newsletter, a copy of the article is circulated.
- Meeting of RC&D Chair and staff with Joe Courtney and staff in mid-January.
- AGvocate program – working with the Agriculture Commissions in the towns of Bozrah, Franklin, Lebanon, Mansfield, Tolland and the Lebanon EDC to co-sponsor a “Growing Non-traditional Crops in CT” workshop with time for AG Commission updates on March 28th from 6-8:30pm at Lebanon High School. Flyer forth coming.
- CIG Project: meeting with CT NOFA and MA NOFA staff on partnership opportunities to collaborate on our CIG grant projects. Early Fall 2019 to co-host a field day at Sub Edge Farm in Farmington, CT.
- DOAG Project: CT Farm Bureau is working on edits to the Livestock Guide.
- DEEP/SEP Project: In addition to the news article on Compost Heat Recovery project, working with producers on anaerobic digester projects, also working with CT DOAG consultant to submit an ad for the CT Grown Magazine.
- Attended partner meeting at CT Farm Bureau to discuss current legislative issues. Also, in communication with CFBA and producers staff submitted educational testimony to E&T Committee on the Anaerobic Digester HB 845.
- RBDG Project: Working with farms through the CT Farm Energy Program to apply to USDA RD for the April 1, 2019 REAP grant deadline.
- RBDG Project: Development of FarmUP program and logo. First farm assisting is Steadfast Farm, a veteran owned operation.
- Participation in CT Energy Efficiency Board Meetings, C&I Committee, Executive Committee, Consultant Committee and Joint Committee with CT Green Bank. New joint metrics hand out is circulated.
- SCRCOG project: scheduling and planning with four farms to film Greater New Haven Regional Farm Videos in the Spring of 2019.
- REDA project: Plan and host a Farm Energy Workshop and prior to the workshop host a round table discussion (in collaboration with the SCRCOG project) to be hosted at Bishop’s Orchards in Guilford, CT on March 11, 2019 from 5-8pm. 250-piece mailing to farms in the SCRCOG 15 town region was sent out. Event flyer is circulated and copies available to take.
- Soil Health Update – planning call with Joe Orefice of Yale School of Forestry & ES and owner of Hidden Blossom Farm in Union, CT along with USDA NRCS staff to coordinate a late summer 2019 on-farm Soil Health Workshop with a focus on silvopasture, grazing fundamentals and fencing options. More details to come.
- Also coming up in March, RC&D staff will be participating in CT AG Day at the Capitol on March 20th and RI Compost Conference on March 14th.

### **Environmental Programs and ERT Update:**

Discussion about new ERT website, new GIS Online project, ESRI non-profit program, upcoming Durham and Bloomfield ERT reviews, Riley is attending a few conferences for ERT program outreach.

**Tour des Farms:**

Discussion about potential locations and dates for the 2019 TDF ride. Tentatively September 21, 2019.

**Rural Lands Rural Towns Workshop & Annual Meeting:**

Jeanne – June 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>

**Other Business:**

Discussion

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** to adjourn the meeting at 3:28 pm

**Motion made by:** Jim Sipperly

**Seconded by:** Justin LaFountain

**Voted:** Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margot Burns, Secretary