



# CONNECTICUT

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

1066 Saybrook Road

Haddam, Connecticut 06438

*John Guszowski, President*

*\_\_\_\_\_ , Vice President*

*Justin LaFountain, Treasurer*

*Margot Burns, Secretary*

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday 12/10/22, 9:00-10:00AM

CT RC&D Zoom Room

**Board Members in Attendance:** John Guszowski (WLA), Margot Burns (RiverCOG), Rosa Browne (At Large), Rick Huntley (At Large), Joanna Shapiro (NCCD), Taijah Anderson (AT Large), Jane Brawerman (CRCCD), Jim Sipperly (CFPA), Jim Larkin (NECCOG), Lois Bruinooge (TLGV), Mark Hoover (MetroCOG), Justin LaFountain (SECCOG)

**Board Members not in Attendance:** Chris Sullivan (WCCD), Aaron Budris (NVCOG), Tyra Penn-Gesek (At Large), Rebecca Andreucci (SCRCOG)

**Other:** Jeanne Davies, Tom Morgart (NRCS)

The meeting was called to order at 9:04. John Guszowski noted there was a quorum.

### Secretary's Report:

**Motion:** To approve the minutes 9/30/21.

**Motion made by:** Rick Huntley

**Seconded by:** Rosa Browne

**Voted:** Unanimously, Mark Hoover and Jim Larkin abstained

### Financial Report:

The review of Financial Statements for 2020 and 2021 by Shane, Navratil & Co. dated November 22, 2021 was presented and reviewed. Based on their review they are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to our financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America.

Discussion concerned the line item for IT services which primarily supported the virtual and phone aspect needed services, grant balances were reviewed, and that existing financial accounts' allotment for encumbered funds to bank accounts vs non-encumbered funds to lower risk investment accounts is under way and different fund types were presented by John Guszowski.

**Motion mad by:** Rick Huntley to deposit funds in to recommended account presented by John Guszowski.

Discussion: Should the accounts we choose be accounts focused on a social and environmental mission?

**Rick Huntley motion withdrawn.**

**Motion:** To deposit unencumbered funds into a 30/70 asset blend account that matches our mission and is both socially and environmentally conscious and to place encumbered funds into separate bank accounts.

**Motion made by:** Rick Huntley

**Seconded by:** Jim Sipperly

**Voted:** Unanimously

10am: Jim Sipperly and Tom Morgart left meeting and Justin LaFountain joined.

### **Staff Project Update:**

Potential grant opportunities for 2021 – 2022 were gone over including:

- CT Farm Energy – FarmUP - New Innovation Idea: RBDG #9
- EnSave Partnership – Solar Evaluations: REDA #3
- Soil Health – Job Jumpstart : NRCS Cooperative Grant
- Veteran FarmUP Expansion: USDA – OPPE –Veterans
- Tour Des Farms: USDA FMPP Grant
- Soil Health and Youth Education: Long Island Sound Future Fund
- 12 Town ALSPT Region KickStart – CTDEEP Recreational Trails Grant or Eastern CT Community Foundation or Tourism Districts
- Affordable Farm Project: USDA Cooperative Development Grant, CTDOAG, Courtney Priority Funds
- Patagonia
- Whole Foods
- CIG and Equip

Lebanon Affordable Farm Project and Grant is due to be completed in September, 2022.

Access to Agriculture – 80% complete with website and cell app., need to complete installation, ribbon cutting, monitor usage, and final report to USDA. Completion March 2022

12 Town Airline State Park Trail Master Plan. components include: Completion May 2022

Trail Count and User Survey – UConn  
Infrastructure: Barton and Loguidice  
Economics: Ninigret Partners – Kevin Hively  
Watershed: Eastern CT Conservation District  
Forest Management & Advocacy – TLGV  
Amy Petrone, AICP – Land Use & Zoning  
22 Member ERT Team  
Quinn and Hary – Marketing and Design  
Mapping Support - UConn  
CT Coastal Conservation District –Watersheds  
Crosscourt Media – Promotional Video

*RC&D did not receive the applied for veteran OPPE farmers grant (?)*

*ERT's include the 12 Town Air Line Trail Plan and Lebanon project.*

The board discussed broadening the ERT program.

### *Farmup and Veteran Farmup*

- Direct Assistance to Farmers
- Hosted Farmer Veteran Stakeholder Meeting on November 9th
- OPPE Grant Application – not awarded
- Facilitate monthly Farmer Veteran Coalition Chapter Organizing Committee meetings – 1st Wed of each month at 7pm
- Farmer Veteran Social coming up on December 17th

*CT Soil Health Initiative:*

- NW CT Seed Giveaway project with NWCD, NRCS, & BAV – 14 farms are participating. Seed has been supplied and soil tests have been taken by NWCD.
- Participate in CT CSWC Soil Health Committee. Conducting a CT service provider survey to catalog current services related to soil health.
- CT Compost Alliance Coordination – Planning for March 2022 Webinars and Field Days.
- No-Till Equipment Hub continuing support - Roller Crimper moved from Elm Farm to Freund's Farm.
- Program funding awarded by USDA NRCS
- Planning for 2022 education, training and outreach. To include biochar, compost, hemp event, and organic on-farm workshop & equipment demo.
- Conducting a NW CT producer survey about soil health practices and equipment needed in the region.

*RES – REDA GRANT APPLICATION*

Grant application due to USDA Rural Development by January 31, 2022

CT RC&D is administering one EA and REDA grant currently both set to conclude in Q2 of 2022.

Staff proposes to work with EnSave again to apply for another REDA grant in providing assistance to farms with renewable energy reviews and system sizing related to on-farm solar.

Grant ask max is \$100,000

CT RC&D would request \$100,000 in grant funds from USDA RD for a \$105,000 project with EnSave providing a \$5,000 match.

RC&D's portion of the grant would be \$20,000 in personnel, fringe, expenses, travel and 5% Admin fee.

**Motion:** To apply for REDA Grant to work with EnSave again in providing assistance to farms with renewable energy reviews and system sizing related to on-farm solar.

**Motion made by:** Rick Huntley

**Seconded by:** Justin LaFountaine

**Voted:** Unanimously

*Job Jump Start* – Tom Morgart had to leave but would send update by email. Tom's email informed the Council that he thought finding for this program would be available again but the opportunity will need to be advertised rather than having the agreement extended.

**Further Considerations:**

Need to plan for Jeanne and Jane's departure in January 2023. The office will be moving from our UConn space and going virtual while accessing current office needs.

Discussion concerned when to do the next partners to programs meeting. It was decided to wait until Spring / Summer when it can be done outside.

Next meetings: Governance Committee in January and full Council meeting in February.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16

Respectfully submitted,  
Margot Burns, Secretary