



CONNECTICUT

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

1066 Saybrook Road

Haddam, Connecticut 06438

*John Guszowski, President
Judy Rondeau, Vice President
Treasurer, Justin LaFountain
Margot Burns, Secretary*

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 01/21/20, 4:00 – 6:00
RC&D Office, UConn Extension, Haddam

Board Members in Attendance: John Guskowski, Margot Burns, Judy Rondeau, Lynne Pike DiSanto, Rosa Browne, Joanna Shapiro, Rick Huntley, Briana DeVivo, Jim Sipperly, Lois Bruinooge, Aaron Budris (call in)

Board Members not in Attendance: Matt Fulda, Mark Nielsen, Jim Larkin, Mark Goetz, Justin LaFountain, Jim Costello, Rebecca Andreucci, Chris Sullivan

Other: Jeanne Davies; Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Andrea Peres, Denise Savageau, Tom Morgart, Rosemary Ostfeld, Laurie Giannotti

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 4:07 m and noted that there was a quorum.

Secretary's Report:

Motion: To approve the minutes 10/22/20.

Motion made by: Judy Rondeau

Seconded by: Rosa Browne

Voted: Motion passed unanimously.

Annual Report & ERT Annual Report

Motion: To adopt the Annual Report and the ERT Annual Report.

Motion made by: Rick Huntley

Seconded by: Jim Sipperly

Voted: Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial accounts have been fully transferred to Liberty Bank and to Raymond James Investment.

RC&D now has a credit card. Jeanne presented the P&L by class and reported the budget is on target.

Denise Savageau reported that there is feeling that passport to the parks will remain stable.

New Council Members and Working Lands Alliance Appointment

Council members need to continue to recruit new council members. We would like to have a new representative for WLA to replace John Guskowski.

Motion: To appoint Jim Sipperly to represent RC&D on WLA.

Motion made by: Rick Huntley

Seconded by: Lois Bruinooge

Voted: Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report:

Jeanne reported that RC&D received a \$15,000 grant to hire interns to work on developing a program to outreach and market soil health to teens. The funding is for the end of February to June. Lois and Jeanne are participating for a stipend on a committee for UConn and the Farmers Market Grant Program for NE CT. There will be a presentation for the Hydrilla ERT on April 21st. 1 position for the job jump start program will open the beginning of February. The Tour de Farms ride to promote farms in Glastonbury is coming along well. The long ride is shaping up to be 20 miles and the short ride 10-12 miles. The kickoff meeting for the Airline Trail meeting will be in Hebron from 12-2. Council members were asked to review their committee assignments and get back to Jeanne with any questions or concerns. The next full Council meeting will be held June 4th, 2020.

Agricultural Programs:

Motion: To provisionally hold the Tour de Farms in Glastonbury.

Motion made by: Jim Sipperly

Seconded by: Rick Huntley

Voted: Motion passed unanimously.

Amanda reported:

- CT RC&D will be hosting 6 events in the first quarter of 2020. 3 Farm Energy Workshops with partners, Agriculture Forum in New Haven as part of the SCRCOG project, Hemp Conference and a Compost Conference with partners.
- REDA 1 – there is still room for a few farms to be serviced under the Geothermal Pilot Program with a free site assessment if eligible.
- REDA 2 – We have two farm energy audits completed and several more in the beginning stages of agreement forms.
- RBDG – grant funding is due March 31, 2020 this helps fund the CT Farm Energy Program and Farm UP. This year the grant application will include a Veteran focus on Farm UP. Hosting 3 Farm Energy workshops as part of the current grant we are working under, as well as assisting producers with the upcoming REAP deadline of March 31, 2020.
- Soil Health Initiative – planning Compost and Hemp Conferences with partners as part of the outreach and education of this agreement. Working on regenerative agriculture demonstration project and workshop either August 2020 or 2021. Staff participating in CCSWC Soil Health Committee as it relates to Soil Health policy in the state.
- CIG – 2020 is the last year of the no-till/cover crop equipment hub project
- CT DOAG Grant – the AGvocate website has been completed, 2nd edition of the Livestock Guide has been completed by CFBA and is available on the CT RC&D website as well as limited printed copies. Copies were made available at the meeting. Last part of the grant is finishing up, GIS AG needs assessment by Metro COG.

- SCRCOG Project – the video companion handout is now completed and printed in partnership with UConn Extension. Last main event will be held on February 13, 2020 – Agriculture Forum at CAES.
- TDF – slated for October 2020 in South Glastonbury – then there was a motion.

Partners:

Tom Mogart reported on the rules for Farm Bill Funding.

Health PlanEat

Dr. Rosemary Ostfeld presented on her Kickstarter campaign to raise funds for the creation of an App that will allow people to order food from local farms, find recipes featuring in-season ingredients, and explore the benefits of choosing food grown by their local farmers. Farmers will be able to create their own page with info about their farm, products, and pick-up options.

Meeting adjourned at 6pm

Respectfully submitted,
Margot Burns, Secretary