



CONNECTICUT

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

1066 Saybrook Road

Haddam, Connecticut 06438

John Guszowski, President

_____ , Vice President

Justin LaFountain, Treasurer

Margot Burns, Secretary

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 5/18/22, 9:00-11:00AM

CT RC&D Zoom Room

Board Members in Attendance: John Guszowski (WLA), Margot Burns (RiverCOG), Rosa Browne (At Large), Aaron Budris (NVCOG), Tajah Anderson (AT Large), Jane Brawerman (CRCCD), Jim Sipperly (CFPA), Jim Larkin (NECCOG), Lois Bruinooge (TLGV), Justin LaFountain (SECCOG), Timothy Malone (CRCOG), Tyra Penn-Gesek (At Large)

Board Members not in Attendance: Chris Sullivan (WCCD), Rebecca Andreucci (SCRCOG), Rick Huntley (At Large), Mark Hoover (MetroCOG), Joanna Shapiro (NCCD)

Other: Jeanne Davies, Amanda Fargo Johnson, Tom Morgart (NRCS), Hannah Hurwitz, Scott Soares, Ben Roosa

The meeting was called to order at 9:08.

Project Updates:

Environmental Program –

Jeanne Davies reported on the updates for the:

- Airline Park State Park Master Plan Project including marketing and development of economic data and infrastructure and environmental inventories.
- Lebanon Affordable Farm Template to be completed in the Fall of 2022
- RDBG #8 which focuses on agriculture and rural business marketing for towns.

Agricultural Programs –

Amanda Fargo Johnson reported on the updates for:

- Access to Ag ribbon cutting held on March 8th – this grant (RDBG 6) has been closed
- Continuing support to farms who've received REAP grants with semi-annual reporting, annual reporting, obligation docs, and closeout grant docs
- Site visits to completed REAP projects
- Assist REAP applicants with USDA application round for March 2022 deadlines
- Provide geothermal site assessments (REDA 1 grant concluding)

- Work with EnSave to complete farm energy audits (EA 1 grant concluding)
- Awarded REDA #2 grant from USDA RD to do renewable energy assessments on CT farms and ag based rural small businesses
- Applied for RBDG Grant from USDA RD to continue CT Farm Energy Program and FarmUP/Veteran FarmUP programs
- Monthly CT Energy Efficiency Board meetings
- Monthly WLA Steering Committee meetings
- Assist farm inquiries with information on current energy efficiency and renewable energy offerings.
- Participating in AFT solar siting survey committee to develop a survey to CT farms
- Ct Soil Health Initiative

ERT Program:

Hebron ERT is finishing and the Middletown ERT is beginning.

Job Jump Start Program funding as been extended for 1 more year.

Secretary's Report:

Motion: To approve the minutes 12/21/21.

Motion made by: Jim Sipperly

Seconded by: Lois Bruinooge

Voted: Unanimously, Jim Larkin and Tyra Penn-Gesek abstained.

Jeanne Davies provided a financial and draft budget review and discussed with the Council needs going forward for staffing, bylaws review, and future office space. It was decided that our strategic work plan could continue for next year.

John Guskowski discussed the need to review the budget, work plan, staffing transition, and officers for the annual meeting and further exploration of funding mechanism's in reference to our Rural Lands / Rural Towns Conference and Tour de Farms and the need to review the bylaws and committee structure. A subcommittee of John Guskowski, Jim Larkin, Jeanne Davies, Taijah Anderson was created for this purpose and Amanda would put together a survey concerning it to send to the board. The annual meeting will be held June 22nd or June 29th via zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16am

Respectfully submitted,
Margot Burns, Secretary