



# CONNECTICUT

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

1066 Saybrook Road

Haddam, Connecticut 06438

*John Guszowski, President*  
*Taijah Anderson, Vice President*  
*Rosa Browne, Treasurer*  
*Margot Burns, Secretary*

## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday 12/5/22, 9:00-11:00AM**

**CT RC&D Zoom Room**

**Board Members in Attendance:** John Guszowski (WLA), Margot Burns (RiverCOG), Aaron Budris (NVCOG), Taijah Anderson (AT Large), Jane Brawerman (CRCCD), Jim Sipperly (CFPA), Jim Larkin (NECCOG), Lois Bruinooge (TLGV), Tyra Penn-Gesek (At Large), Rebecca Andreucci (SCRCOG), Mark Hoover (MetroCOG), Rick Huntley (At Large),

**Board Members not in Attendance:** Chris Sullivan (SCD), Joanna Shapiro (NCCD), Rosa Browne (At Large), Timothy Malone (CRCOG),

**Other:** Jeanne Davies, Amanda Fargo Johnson, Jillian Shea

The meeting was called to order at 11:33am

### **Secretary's Report:**

Adoption of 6/22/22 meeting minutes postponed to next meeting.

### **Project Updates:**

Agricultural Programs –

Amanda Fargo Johnson reported on the updates for:

Application to CTDOAG – January 18, 2023 - Climate Smart Farming: Agriculture and Forestry Grant to provide subgrants to farmers to implement soil health and clean energy or equipment hubs and to implement additional equipment hubs across the state.

**Motion:** To develop the grant for application that is due in January

**Motion made by:** Tyra Penn-Gesek

**Seconded by:** Rick Huntley

**Voted:** Unanimously

RDBG 2023 -2024 is due in February or March and application will be made for the extension of Jillian's work in affordable farming. Patagonia grant possibility for capacity building. Eastern Ct Tourism Grant a possibility for continuation of Air Line Trail planning work.

**Environmental Program:**

Jeanne Davies reported on that the affordable farm project report and video are available and asked that all send to their respective municipalities. RC&D is also participating in a USDA grant obtained by the Town of Thompson to develop a small business support system center. RC&D will be focusing on education and outreach.

Amanda reported RBDG Grant was awarded by USDA Rural Development for \$90,000 (to continue the CT Farm Energy Program, FarmUP and Veteran FarmUP programs) as well as USDA Rural Development awarded us in 2022 with a REDA grant for \$100,000 to provide renewable energy assessments and assistance to CT Farms, and our consultant for the project is EnSave.

**Financial Overview – Investment Funds:**

Investment funds remain with Raymond James but our advisor has been switched to our original Liberty Bank advisor.

**Membership, Meetings 2023 and Bylaws:**

**Motion:** To approve the meeting schedule as presented and discussed for 2023.

**Motion made by:** Jim Sipperly

**Seconded by:** Tyra Penn-Geseck

**Voted:** Unanimously

**Planning for new location – Affordable Farm Concept: Consensus on moving forward**

Discussion concerned the location of the affordable farm project location as a future home for RC&D.

Jeanne asked that board members send to their municipalities and those that might be interested the project's report and video outreach that can be found <https://ctrcd.org/agriculture/affordablefarming/>. There was also a discussed an interesting farm property in Lebanon near the high school.

**Staffing Positions:**

Tara Cleary has been hired part time as the new administrative and financial coordinator and is in charge of Job Jump Start which has 1 position open. The Executive Director position will be posted.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Margot Burns, Secretary