



CONNECTICUT

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

1066 Saybrook Road

Haddam, Connecticut 06438

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

Meeting Minutes

Monday 5/23/23, 9:30 - 11:00AM

CT RC&D Zoom Room

Board Members in Attendance: John Guszkowski (WLA), Margot Burns (RiverCOG), Aaron Budris (NVCOG), Jane Brawerman (CRCCD), Jim Sipperly (CFPA), Lois Bruinooge (TLGV), Tyra Penn-Gesek (At Large Maureen Goulet (CRCOG), Jim Larkin (NECCOG), Rebecca Andreucci (SCRCOG),

Board Members not in Attendance: Rosa Browne (At Large), Timothy Malone (CRCOG), Taijah Anderson (At Large), , Mark Hoover (MetroCOG), Rick Huntley (At Large), Joanna Shapiro (NCCD), Chris Sullivan (SCD),

Other: Amanda Fargo Johnson, Sarah Layton, Pauline Galezowski, Jocelyn Lahey, Kyle Casiglio, Tara Cleary,

The meeting was called to order at 9:36am

Secretary's Report:

Adoption of 1/9/23 and 4/6/23 meeting minutes.

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes of 1/9/23 and 4/6/23.

Motion made by: Maureen Goulet

Seconded by: Kyle Casiglio

Voted: Motion approved, Jane Brawerman abstaining from April meeting vote.

2023-2026 Work Plan

Discussion: The board would like to change the dates of the plan to 2023 -2024. Jocelyn Lahey suggested including along with goals some strategies and to replace photos. The group also wanted to include what we expected for outcomes and deliverables, including activities under goals.

Banking:

Motion: To change from Liberty bank to M&T Bank. Discussion concerns moving because there is need ffor a higher limit on our credit card for business expenses which Liberty denied. Motion amended that other credit cards and finance vehicles like lines of credit be explored before changing banks.

Motion made by: Jim Sipperly

Seconded by: Tyra Penn-Gesek

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting will be held at Bishop's Orchard in Guilford. They have received tech assistance from the farm energy program for solar. Jocelyn Lahey will send email regarding awards and scholarships, as they will need to be voted on. The meeting fee has been set at \$25.00 with comp tickets for state and field partners, and award nominees. Jim Larkin will help John Guskowski on the nominating committee.

Draft Budget Presentation:

The draft budget was presented which will be approved at the annual meeting and included a \$500,00 pass through for the Climate Smart grant.

Executive Director Report:

Jocelyn Lahey introduced Sarah Layton as the new Agricultural Program Coordinator and reported that all job jump staff had been hired. Jillian Shea is stepping down as outreach coordinator and Chris Roberts is stepping down from his GIS work on the airline trail project although he is still available to work on other projects. NRCS cooperator contracts can only be extended for up to 5 years. Staff is working on a 2 year application for a contract for job jump start and soil health which is due in June.

The Town of Plainfield has applied for an ERT on a 162 acre site for public access considerations. The 1st meeting on the project has taken place and a 2 month timeline for the project is anticipated.

Amanda Fargo Johnson reported on current projects and new grants and that the 1st quarter of 2023 had been the busiest to date for the agricultural program.

Meeting adjourned at 10:49AM

Respectfully submitted,
Margot Burns, Secretary