



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Ag Development & Resource Conservation



Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

860-713-2501
CTGrown.gov

MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2021

1:00 PM- 2:30 PM

Via WebEx

Members Present: Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt, Marcia Pessolano, Willard Seedman, Robin Lamott Sparks, , Monica Pacheco, , Martha Page, Jiff Martin

Members Absent: Susan Pronovost, Molly Devaney, Patrick Doyle, Priscilla Cotto, Lynn Peccerillo-Hills

DoAg Staff: Jaime Smith, Erin Windham, Kayleigh Royston, Cyrena Thibodeau

Guests: Shannon Yearwood, Peggy Zamore, Jenna Nicol, Angie Pearson, Douglas Wade, Karen Brown, Denise Martinez, Jennie Hirsch, Joel Sekorski, Kim Boulette, Marilyn Lonczak

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:06 PM by Jaime Smith and it was announced that recording was taking place due to FOIA requirements.
2. **Review and approval of meeting minutes from July 8, 2021:** Motion to consider the minutes was made by Martha Page. Seconded by Monica Pacheco. All in favor. Motion passed
3. **Public Comment:** NONE
4. **Old Business**
 - A. **CT Food System Alliance/Hartford Food System-Update, Martha Page:** Making good progress projects. In the middle of planning for the fall summit. 4 sessions upcoming, shared dates and topics. Noted that Meg will be out on leave beginning September 20th and will be out for 6-8 weeks. Applying for 2 grants. One from Kendall and one from Tufts.
 - B. **CT Food Policy Council Retreat:** Erin Windham went over the status of planning for the Food Policy Council Retreat. Jaime Smith asked if anyone would like to make a motion to approve funding of up to \$600.00 for room rental and food. Bill Seedman made a motion, seconded by Jiff Martin. All in favor. Motion passed.

Cyrena Thibodeau reviewed the proposals from potential consultants and discussion followed. There was a desire to include diversity and equity work in the proposals. A motion to move forward with Quinnipiac was made by Jiff Martin with a request to address diversity in the work moving forward. The motion was seconded by Martha Page. All in favor. Motion passed.

- C. SNAP Marketing:** Erin Windham gave an overview of marketing options for the Food Policy Council to support SNAP outreach noting that there are already organizations with state plans in place with DSS. End Hunger CT! is one of these organizations, so Robin Lamott Sparks shared her experience with this, and discussion ensued. It was noted that a marketing firm may be best suited for developing materials and an outreach campaign A request for motion to pursue and release an RFQ was made. The motion was made by Robin Lamott Sparks and seconded by Martha Page. All in favor. Motion passed.
- 5. New Business**
- A. John Hopkins University- The Power of Food:** Cyrena Thibodeau shared information about the John Hopkins University Power of Food Forum to gauge interest in attendance. A request for motion to use funds for members and DoAg staff to attend. Motion was made for registrations to be paid from Food Policy Council funds by Marcia Pessolano, seconded by Bill Seedman. All in favor. Motion passed.
- 6. Next Steps:** Erin and Cyrena will continue preparations for the retreat and begin the process of confirming the consultant. They will also begin development of the RFQ within the agency.
- 7. Board Member Updates:** NONE
- 8. Adjournment:** Jaime Smith asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn was made by Monica Pacheco. Seconded by Robin Lamott Sparks. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 3:12 PM

Respectfully submitted, Erin Windham, AMIR I, September 16, 2021