



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of the Commissioner



Bryan P. Hurlburt  
Commissioner

860-713-2507  
www.CTGrown.gov

## Connecticut Milk Promotion Board

### SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2020

Conference Call

**Members Present:** Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt, Joe Greenbacker, Paul Miller, Seth Bahler, Dr. Jaime Foster

**Members Absent:**

**DoAg staff:** Rebecca Eddy

**Guests:** Amanda Freund, Heidi Harkopf, Annalise Kiley, Jenny Karl and Amanda Aldred

1. Welcome – Commissioner Hurlburt called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM. Made introductions of members and guests. Discussion of confirmed board appointees.
2. Review and approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for October 23, 2019 and Special Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2019. Ms. Freund noted a change on the 10/23 minutes under item 5 – dairy day is June 7. Mr. Miller commented that Members Listed as absent should be removed as they are no longer on board. Motion made by Mr. Miller to accept as amended. Seconded by Mr. Greenbacker to approve the minutes. All in favor. Motion passed.
3. Public Comment – no comment.
4. Financial Report – Commissioner Hurlburt reported on the Governor’s state of the state address. Agency budget recommendation remains largely intact and the extra \$1 million in the ag sustainability account for dairy remains. Next ag sustainability payment is being cut this week and should be received by producers next week. Ms. Eddy reported a standing balance is \$734,739.58. Encumbrances of \$79,560.00 include upcoming payments to NE Dairy. Dr. Foster made a motion to approve financial report. Mr. Miller seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
5. Old Business
  - a. Social Media Promotional campaign & Outreach Update
    - i. Ms. Eddy provided a brief overview of recent outreach including National Milk Day on January 11, collaboration with New England Dairy on various projects and more.
    - ii. A producer media training event, Productive Conversations, has been confirmed for March 26 at Tolland Agricultural Center. Ms. Eddy has disseminated information to partner organizations to share with dairy producers.



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- b. Appointments: Commissioner Hurlburt recognized new board members, Seth Bahler and Dr. Jaime Foster. Following up on recommendation of Amanda Freund.
  - c. New England Dairy 2019 Final Report & Final Financial Report
    - i. Commissioner Hurlburt acknowledged delay in approving final report and release of payment due to lack of quorum for January meeting. He requested a line item budget vs. actuals from NED for 2019. New England Dairy was provided opportunity to highlight work from presentation provided to members to in advance. Dr. Foster questioned slide on funding results related to increase in additional breakfasts and increase in additional milk being attributed to NED efforts vs. policy change. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the final 2019 report and financial report for release of funds. Mr. Greenbacker seconded. All in favor.
    - ii. New England Dairy presented request for additional \$39,000 in funds to cover additional school grants awarded in 2019 beyond scope of contract. Commissioner Hurlburt reiterated terms of contract and that no formal written amendment was executed in advance. He is not inclined to approve request. Discussion ensued with members in agreement to deny request based on variety of reasons including lack of budget insight, large dollar amount for impact and following procedural policies. Dr. Foster made a motion to deny the request for \$39,000. Mr. Miller seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Additional discussion ensued among members and guests.
6. New Business
- i. Commissioner Hurlburt addressed the mission, vision, and how to address future opportunities. He shared recent conversations that he and Ms. Eddy have had with Lucas Lentsch at DMI regarding a strategic vision session for Connecticut dairy producers to participate in. A working agenda is being edited and discussion regarding dates narrowed down to March 11 or 13. Dr. Foster offered up the conference room space at CT Food Bank in Wallingford as a location. Ms. Freund asked about costs. Commissioner responded that there is no cost for Lucas Lentsch and other costs would be minimal – mostly related to provided lunch and refreshments. Session would be open to any interested Connecticut dairy producer and New England Dairy staff. Ms. Freund offered to distribute information at the Agri-Mark meeting on Monday, 2/17.
  - ii. Ms. Freund expressed desire to learn more about expectations for board members, meetings, code of conduct and more. Mr.



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Greenbacker recommended a new board member orientation meeting. Mr. Bahler concurred that would be helpful in how to best contribute and understand his role and the role of New England Dairy as a contractor to the board.

7. Adjournment – Mr. Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Foster seconded. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:57 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Eddy, AMIR 2, February 11, 2020

DRAFT