



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Commissioner



Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

860-713-2507
www.CTGrown.gov

Connecticut Milk Promotion Board

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 22, 2020

10:00 AM

Call-in Number: 866-917-9738

Participant code: 88236281

Members Present: Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt, Paul Miller, Jaime Foster, Joe Greenbacker
Members Absent:
DoAg staff: Rebecca Eddy
Guests: Amanda Freund, Jon Hermonot, Heidi Harkopf, Amanda Aldred, Annalise Kieley

1. **Welcome:** Commissioner Hurlburt called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM.
2. **Review and approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2020.** Motion made by Paul Miller to accept. Jaime Foster seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
3. **Public Comment.** None.
4. **Financial Report/Budget Update:** Commissioner Hurlburt reported that state legislature will not reconvene due to COVID-19 pandemic. Discussion ensued regarding special session and priority areas. Rebecca Eddy reported a standing balance of \$738,503.82. Encumbrances of \$351,103.00.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. **Social Media & Outreach Update:** Rebecca Eddy provided a social media and outreach update, as well as COVID-19 response from the agency. Commissioner Hurlburt provide update on work with Congressional leaders, USDA leaders and NASDA partners to support the dairy industry during pandemic.
 - b. **Food Bank Donation:** Jaime Foster thanked board for support. Jon Hermonot reported that DFA Cares will accept requests for donations but that distribution is an issue. Discussion ensued on how to partner work that angle. Commissioner reported on communications with CT Food Association President Wayne Pesce regarding limits on dairy purchases in grocery stores.
 - c. **Appointments:** no update
 - d. **New England Dairy Q1 Activity Report & Financial Update & Q2 Contract Payment approval:** Joe Greenbacker motioned to accept Q1 report. Jaime Foster seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Heidi Harkopf provide a national update include emergency action teams, school meals and work to address challenges/provide solutions. Addressed that tactics will need to be altered in execution of contract and how to notify board. Commissioner requested that changes be sent to Rebecca to survey members. Amanda Aldred provide update regarding SDE with grants available and needs



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assessment. Commissioner requested coordination with CT Department of Agriculture. Heidi Harkopf affirmed weekly calls with Rebecca Eddy. Q2 payment approval will require special meeting.

6. **New Business:** Jon Hermonot reported that wife Erica is co-chair of dairy birthing center at Woodstock Fair and how to coordination with MPB for promotion. Amanda Freund expressed concern re: feasibility of Hartford Yard Goats event and need for a Plan B on how to utilize funds and continue call to action for consumption of dairy. Also reported that DMI is hosting weekly calls on national checkoff activities.
7. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:09 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Eddy, AMIR 2, April 24, 2020