



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

June 15, 2020

1:30 PM

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[+1 860-840-2075](tel:+18608402075) United States, Hartford (Toll)

Conference ID: 943 326 580#

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

Members Absent:

DoAg staff: Rebecca Eddy

Guests: Amanda Freund, Jon Hermonot

1. **Welcome** – Commissioner Hurlburt called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM. Welcomed Jaime Smith as Bureau Director of Ag Development and Resource Conservation and updated board on two pending AMIR hires to better align staffing resources and program responsibilities.
2. Public Comment – no comment.
3. CMPB Update – Rebecca Eddy provided update on activities (see attached) from May 1 to current. Jaime Foster addressed the 2020-2025 dietary guidelines, first time that whole milk is identified for children two years old and under. Commissioner Hurlburt informed board of a meeting with New England Dairy to address contractual issues on May 15 and alleviate any further misunderstandings. Discussion ensued regarding budget approvals, financial control and the need to follow the contract with emphasis on building trust and communication. Commissioner Hurlburt informed board that they were in receipt of an audit inquiry from New England Dairy. New and pending board members requested guidance on role of board and their position.
4. Reallocation of Budget due to COVID-19
 - a. Virtual Tours: Rebecca Eddy presented opportunity from Celebrating Agriculture which is going virtual this year to create a virtual farm tour. Joe Greenbacker motioned to approve up to \$5,000 for the production and editing of a virtual farm tour. Seth Bahler seconded. Four in favor. One abstained (Paul Miller). Motion passed.
 - b. Lawn Signs: Rebecca Eddy shared collaboration with Kies Orr who requested usage of CT Dairy logo for lawn signs and opportunity to purchase in bulk to



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distribute a maximum of two to all interested dairy farms and available to interested dairy/ag supporters. Paul Miller made a motion to approve up to \$2,000 on the purchase of lawn signs. Jaime Foster seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

- c. New England Dairy Farmer to Food Pantry Reallocation Proposal: Proposal was shared in advance for board to review. Jaime Foster offered to assist with evaluation. Paul Miller motioned to approve the reallocation as submitted. Jaime Foster seconded. Discussion ensued regarding what would happen with funding if not approved, movement of surplus milk, working with retailers and processors to facilitate excess movement to food banks/pantries and how to identify where end user is getting food. Motion was modified to offer additional coolers based on needs of pantry within reason, no more than \$2,725 per cooler and the initial \$275 for the cooler stocking with farmer nomination. All in favor. Motion passed.
5. Other: Paul Miller requested a detailed financial report for July meeting with contributors and line item expenses. Also inquired about appointments to complete the board. Commissioner Hurlburt reported that weekly follow ups are happening, however, with legislative session adjourned due to COVID-19 it has been challenging to make headway with appointors. Paul Miller requested an election of officers be on the July agenda. Jon Hermonot inquired about the second quarter payment due to New England Dairy on June 30. Commissioner Hurlburt stated that a special meeting would be held if necessary to review work completed in order to authorize payment.
6. Adjournment – Mr. Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.

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