



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Governor's Council for Agricultural Development



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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JULY 17, 2012

I. CONVENE MEETING

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky, council chair, called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

In addition to Chairman Reviczky, the following council members were present: Erica Andrews, Allyn Brown, III, Winter Caplanson, James Guida, Jason Hoagland, George Hindinger, Herb Holden, Jr., Jamie Jones, Michael Keilty, Shelly Oechsler, Kevin Sullivan, Jr., Henry Talmage, and Dr. Greg Weidemann. Council member Greg Veneziano was absent.

Also present were Linda Piotrowicz from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and Jiff Martin from the University of Connecticut, along with several guests.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

George Hindinger moved to approve the April 3, 2012, meeting minutes. Allyn Brown seconded. The council unanimously accepted the motion.

III. REMARKS BY CHAIR

Chairman Reviczky explained that as part of the Grow Connecticut Farm strategic planning project, the interview panel of Henry Talmage, Linda Piotrowicz, and Jiff Martin had conducted 53 stakeholder interviews, representing 106 hours of interview time plus an additional estimated 75-80 hours of scheduling, coordination, preparation, and follow-up,. He thanked the panel for their time and effort.

Chairman Reviczky updated members on the status of the council's working groups, which will begin meeting soon, and provided guidance on protocol.

IV. UPDATE ON GROW CONNECTICUT FARMS STRATEGIC PLAN

Commissioner Reviczky reviewed the timeline for the project.

The interview panel gave a presentation on its findings from the stakeholder interviews. This was followed by discussion by the council.

Commissioner Reviczky explained that the next stakeholder input steps could include an electronic survey, regional listening sessions, and facilitated meetings on specific topics, followed by a statewide summit in December. There was consensus that the interview panel should develop and send out a survey ASAP.

V. SET SPECIAL MEETING

There was consensus that the council should have a special meeting in late August. The meeting will include presentations from a few of the stakeholders interviewed along with time for the council to decide the next steps in the stakeholder input process. Members will be polled via email about their availability for specific dates.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Chairman Reviczky adjourned meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Piotrowicz on July 18, 2012
Approved November 13, 2012