



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Governor's Council for Agricultural Development



MINUTES OF MEETING HELD APRIL 9, 2013

Hartford Regional Market

101 Reserve Road

Hartford, CT 06114

I. CONVENE MEETING

Commissioner Reviczky, council chair, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Other council members present were Allyn Brown, III, Winter Caplanson, James Guida, George Hindinger, Jason Hoagland, Herb Holden, Jr., Jamie Jones, Michael Keilty, Peter Orr, Kevin Sullivan, Jr., Henry Talmage, and Dr. Greg Weidemann. Staff members from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture also were present.

Council member Shelly Oechsler was absent.

II. HARTFORD REGIONAL MARKET TOUR

The council toured the Hartford Regional Market to learn more about its history, its existing infrastructure, and plans for its short-and long-term future. Members visited several tenant businesses, including those engaged in aggregation and packing, light processing, and distribution.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The council reviewed draft minutes from February 19, 2013. Michael Keilty moved to approve them. George Hindinger seconded. The council unanimously accepted the motion.

IV. REMARKS FROM CHAIR

Commissioner Reviczky explained that Governor Dannel P. Malloy was unable to attend this meeting because he was in New Orleans supporting the UConn Huskies women's basketball team, which was competing for its eighth national championship. At Governor Malloy's direction, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture had released the council's Grow Connecticut Farms first annual report that morning via a news release, and had already received interest and positive feedback from a number of recipients. Commissioner Reviczky reported that his department had printed a small batch of copies, limited by cost, which it will distribute to legislators and other key stakeholders. More widespread distribution will be done by email and the through agency's website, www.CTGrown.gov, where the report has been posted.

V. DISCUSSION OF/ACTION ON MARCH 19 TOPIC-FOCUSED MEETINGS

The chairman led the council through a review of the topic-focused meetings held with stakeholders on March 19, 2013, in Storrs, explaining that the council's next steps in the strategic planning process involved the council's working groups beginning to meet later this spring. Working groups will address recommendations from the council's first annual report, information from the March 19, 2013, sessions with stakeholders, and any other priorities that emerge in the process.

Jamie Jones made a motion for the council to make a recommendation to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture as follows: The Governor's Council for Agricultural Development supports Governor Malloy's Next Generation Connecticut education initiative because of its potential to bolster the science, technology, engineering, and math skills that are integral and essential to the growth of Connecticut agriculture. Kevin Sullivan seconded, and the council unanimously accepted the motion.

The council discussed at length other feedback and suggestions provided by participants of the March 19, 2013, sessions, ultimately agreeing to refer the main ideas from each to the appropriate working group(s) as part of those groups' charge in the development of recommendations for the council's next annual report.

VI. NEXT SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next regular quarterly meeting will be held on May 21, 2013 (location to be announced).

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Chairman Reviczky adjourned meeting at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Piotrowicz
April 10, 2013

DRAFT