



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Ag Development & Resource Conservation



Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

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CTGrown.gov

Connecticut Food Policy Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2021

1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Via WebEx

Members Present: Willard Seedman, Monica Pacheco, Martha Page, Jiff Martin, Priscilla Cotto, Lynn Peccerillo- Hills

Members Absent: Susan Pronovost, Molly Devanney, Patrick Doyle, Marcia Pessolano, Commissioner Hurlburt

DoAg Staff: Jaime Smith, Erin Windham, Kayleigh Royston, Cyrena Thibodeau

Guests: William Logue, Marcella Micillo, Peggy Zamore, Chelsea Gazillo, Karen Brown, Denise Martinez, Jennie Hirsch, Pam Levasseur, Kim Boulette, Marilyn Lonczak, Yvonne Davis

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM by Jaime Smith and the recording was started.
- 2. Review and approval of meeting minutes:** Motion was made by Bill Seedman to accept the minutes from September 9, 2021. Motion was seconded by Martha Page. All in favor, motion passed.
- 3. Board Member Updates:**
 - a. Martha Page, Hartford Food Systems-** Shared information on new LFPP grant received by Hartford Food Systems to build out an aggregation CSA.
 - b. Monica Pacheco, CSDE-** Gave updates on Seamless Summer meal options and school districts, as well as an update on waivers from the USDA. Monica also addressed supply chain issues.
 - c. Jiff Martin, UCONN Extension-** Noted that November- March is the time of year that the Dept of Extension offers lots of trainings for farmers and asked attendees to share and direct people to the Ag Report for information. Mentioned the new CT Grown for CT Kids Grant and shared that she is helping applicants with the application process for this as well as the USDA Farm to School grant. She also noted that November is Indigenous Peoples Month and mentioned some resources to note.
 - d. Bill Seedman, CDSS-** On November 16th DSS issued emergency EBT benefits and Bill shared some data on issuance, noting that details can be found on the DSS website. Gave an update on CFSA partners, Food Bank and FoodShare, now combined, as well as caseload for FY 2022.

- e. **Jaime Smith, CT DoAg-** DoAg will release its full portfolio of 2022 grants by end of Calendar year and shared additional information regarding applications. Cyrena then shared information regarding the CT Kids for CT Grown grant.

4. Public Comment –

- a. **Kim Boulette, CT WIC-** Gave an update on fruit and vegetable purchases by WIC recipients and mentioned ARPA benefits for participants, noting that those are set to expire on December 31st.
- b. **Peggy Zamore, Danbury Farmers' Market-** The Danbury market is reliant on SNAP and FMNP. Peggy noted that their redemption was triple that of last year.
- c. **Yvonne Davis, Davis World Training-** They are in the middle of feeding approximately 2000 families for Thanksgiving, mentioning the difficulties due to lack of funding and shared some of their recent efforts.
- d. **Cyrena Thibodeau, CT DoAg-** shared links to some currently available grants.

5. Old Business

A. SNAP Marketing RFQ, Erin Windham, CT DoAg- Erin reviewed the RFQ for contractors and asked for input. A suggestion to attach data from previous studies was made.

B. CT Food System Alliance/Hartford Food System Update, Martha Page- CFSA Summit- 4 parts, Climate, Food Plans, Networking, and Wrap-up. Final session was a robust discussion about what to do with this information and some ideas were shared. Meg Hourigan is due back 11/29.

C. CT Food Policy Council Retreat Recap- William Logue, CT Ag Mediation Program Bill reviewed the big ideas that came out of the retreat and options for discussion in the future noting access, collaboration, question storming, and looking at goals for the next 3-5 years. Bill then went over some action steps to complete before the next regular meeting. These will be sent with the follow-up email.

6. New Business

Jaime asked for a motion to add 2022 meeting Dates to the agenda. Jiff made a motion and discussion followed. It was agreed that the current date continued to work for all. Martha Page motioned to accept the 2nd Thursday of the month for 2022 meetings. Jiff Martin seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

7. Next Steps:

- 2022 meeting dates will be added to the calendar.
- Updates will be made to the SNAP marketing RFQ as discussed.
- Retreat notes and Bill's follow-up will be sent and Bill will be added to January meeting agenda.

8. Adjournment: Jiff Martin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Monica Pacheco seconded. All in favor, motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM

Respectfully submitted by Erin Windham AMIR I, November 23, 2021