



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



Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

860-713-2501
CTGrown.gov

Connecticut Food Policy Council

MEETING Minutes

January 12, 2022

1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Members Present: Patrick Doyle, Jiff Martin, Commissioner Hurlburt, Monica Pacheco, Marcia Pessalano (Mailyn Lonczak present to represent DPH), Priscilla Cotto, Daniel Giacomi, Martha Page

Members Absent: Molly Devanney, Lynn Peccerillo-Hills

Public: Isa Mujahid, Shana Brierley, Jennie Hirsch, Jenna Nicol, Sen. Marilyn Moore, Peggy Zamore, Kim Boulette, Tida Infahsaeng, Chelsea Gazillo

DoAg staff Present: Cyrena Thibodeau, Erin Windham, Jaime Smith, Kayleigh Royston

1. Call to Order Meeting called to order at 1:03 pm by Commissioner Hurlburt
2. Review and approval of meeting minutes from November 10 ,2022
 - Minutes adopted without correction.
3. Public Comment- Senator Marilyn Moore wanted everyone to know that she is here as a resource and glad to be involved in Food Systems work at the legislature.
4. Executive Session
 - Motion made by Monica to enter into executive session to discuss the Food System Capacity Building Grant, Jiff seconded. Executive session entered at 1:09 PM
 - Motion made by Martha to exit executive session and resume public session. Motion passed. Public session resumed at 1:41 PM.
5. Old Business
 - A. Food System Capacity Building Grant awards
 - Erin went through the proposed grant awardees. Total proposed award amount is \$79,812.88 to eight projects.
 - Commissioner Hurlburt went through the review process both from the council review committee and internally in the department. He stated what where the considerations and decisions points for recommending these awards and other opportunities that different categories can apply for.
 - Jiff motioned to accept the recommendations for funding as presented by the DoAg for the Food System Capacity Building grant. Monica seconded. Motion passed 1:51 PM
 - The DoAg will work on contacting awardees and non-awardees and begin the contracting process for those awarded to begin their projects mid Spring 2023.
 - B. CT Food Policy Council Strategic Plan
 - Commissioner Hurlburt announced that the DoAg is working on cleaning it

up and it will be presented to the council for approval and adoption at the next meeting.

6. New Business

- Martha requested that New England Feeding New England data presentation for March meeting.

7. Board Member Updates

- A. Dan: DSS continues to distribute emergency SNAP allotments, looking in 1-million-dollar range of benefits distributed in the last three years. Average \$156/household but are expiring shortly.
- B. Jiff: It is the learning season for farmers, recently had a small tool training course, new soil course ongoing
- C. Monica: Local Food Schools is coming to the state will bring about 1.9 million dollars to local procurement for school meals. Will be run as a pilot incentive program, run as a two-tiered program with the second tier being a deeper relationship. Two rounds supply chains funds through CCC funds. Money to extend authorization of free meals into this school year to ease the transition which is happening now. Lots of legislative action to try to make School Meals for All pass in CT.
- D. Martha: NEFNE just spent two days with the regional team mapping out what 2023 and beyond will look like. New grant will be put in for USDA RSFP grant for implementation.
- E. Marilyn: On January 1, 2023, the 2nd phase of Connecticut's Bottle Bill is going into effect. Half gallon (64 oz.) plastic containers of juice will now be included in the items subject to a 5-cent bottle deposit. The WIC Program cannot pay the 5-cent deposit. For transactions made with a WIC card, the 5-cent deposit must be paid for separately from the food items. When purchasing 64 oz. plastic bottles of WIC approved juice, customers using WIC cards will first swipe their WIC card to pay for the WIC approved food items, then will need to pay the bottle deposit with any other form of payment. WIC is seeing more in person visits and continuing to encourage that.
- F. Priscilla: Nothing to report.
- G. Commissioner Hurlburt: CT Grown for CT Kids awarded 32 projects for \$452,000. Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry Grants close next Wednesday (1/18) and our Farm Transition Grant just closed yesterday (1/11). Farmland Restoration closed 2 weeks ago, and announcements are coming shortly. Put a brief pause on the Farm Viability Program and the Specialty Crop Block Grant program.

8. Public Comment: No public comments

9. Adjournment 2:07 PM by Commissioner Hurlburt.

Respectfully submitted by Cyrena Thibodeau, AMIR 1 1/12/23

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 701, Hartford, CT 06103
Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer