



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



860-713-2501
CTGrown.gov

Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

Connecticut Food Policy Council

MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2023

1:00 PM- 2:30 PM

Via WebEx

Join from the meeting link:

<https://ctdoag.webex.com/ctdoag/j.php?MTID=m7a1014d061426402921dee77a7ff748a>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 132 460 3963

Meeting password: euNtH3A3Nf7

Members in attendance: Marilyn Lonczak, Molly Devanney, Monica Pacheco, Patrick Doyle, Commissioner Hurlburt, Dan Giacomi, Lynn Peccerillo- Hills, Priscilla Cotto, Jiff Martin, Martha Page

Members Absent: None

DoAg staff: Erin Windham, Cyrena Thibodeau, Kayleigh Royston

Public: Marva Ledbetter, MaryAnn Martinez, Jenna Nicol, Shannon, Peter Kent, Joel Sekorski

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order 1:05 PM by Commissioner Hurlburt
2. Review and approval of meeting minutes from January 12, 2023. No changes requested. Motion passed.
3. Public Comment: No public comment
4. Old Business
 - A. Updates from Connecticut Food System Alliance and NE Feeding NE Project
 - Meg not here
 - Martha gave update on NEFNE, most funded through a USDA RFS planning grant. In the last steps of reviewing the report. Engaged 16 researchers, 15 food system professionals, nutrition experts, producers. Hopefully will be done in the next few weeks- estimate resilient eating patterns, economic impact of NE food system, 30% goal, market demand. Will also have state level data.
5. New Business
 - A. Introduce awardees who are in attendance, discuss grantee gathering and support.
 - Erin gave an introduction and thanked the board members and introduced the grantees present. Peter Kent- Daily Bread, MaryAnn Martinez- New London Community Meal Center, Marva Ledbetter – Bibleway Temple
 - Each grantee in attendance gave an overview of their organization and their project.
 - Several members thanked the grantees for being at the meeting and look forward to seeing the impact of the projects.

- B. Ag Day at the Capitol Discussion
 - Ag Day at the Capitol will be Wednesday 22nd. Should the council have a table? Yes, it would be good to have a table. Patrick and Molly volunteered to help staff it. Jiff motioned to expend \$75 for the table at CT Ag Day. All in favor. Motion passes.
 - C. DEI Workshop Discussion
 - Council members will have the option to start with the 21 Day Racial Equity Challenge and Cyrena will send out an email to get a group together for discussion.
6. Board Member Updates
- A. Dan: Still doing “catch up waves”. Beginning in March, there will no longer be the 2nd SNAP deposit during the middle of the month, over the course of the program the additional allotment totaled 1 Billion dollars in the state over 3 years. Preparing for the end of the federal public health emergency, asking people to go online to ensure that their information is up to date.
 - B. Jiff: 2 weeks ago we had a Farm to School producer training with SDE and DoAg, was a great success and lots of new funding coming through. Lots of advocacy around Farm to School going on right now. Promoting CSA week, Farmers Market openings. Another stipend round for Solid Ground, about 60% are early phase farmers, 30% BIPOC. 128 applications, really excited to get those funds out. Jiff stepping off the council, and Heather Peracchio to be her replacement for UConn.
 - C. Patrick: At KNOX are gearing up for the current season, start a new cohort for urban farmers, managing greenhouse space. People are ready for spring and coming in for seeds. Continuing market and will try to bring in the new farmers and engage them in the market.
 - D. Molly: CT Food Association is focusing on the wine in grocery stores bill and the bottle bill. Mums and CT Grown food coming!
 - E. Shannon: Happy National School Breakfast week! SMART program- allow students to receive meals at no cost through the end of the school year. Working on the P-EBT plan for the summer which has been slightly cut. Non congregate meals in rural settings for the summer are now allowed. Monica: Additional round of supply chain assistance funds in early February, Local Foods in Schools is coming and Monica will be presenting it at the SNACT conference next week. National Farm to School Census is going to be coming out soon.
 - F. Priscilla: Package of bus service enhancements for 8 million in the budget, looking to increase ridership levels and prioritize access for ridership.
 - G. Lynn: 3 contracts are expiring and are now in the solicitation phase.
 - H. Commissioner Hurlburt: CT Grown for CT Grants rolled out, many thanks to education and advocated for working with Governor Lamont to get free school meals through the end of the year in the budget, thank you to DSS for moving all that additional money that was distributed during COVID. Erin: Both WIC and FMNP will be moving to an electronic platform, all participants and producers will use an app, seniors will receive a card instead which will be scanned by farmers. Have a lot of training that is going on and to come. Will have a help line setup for this program. Looking to expand and increase outreach for participation. Please feel free to share my information on the program with anyone who has questions. DoAg one of eight states that got this program approved and received funding.
 - I. Marilyn: Dept. submitted comments on WIC revised food package rule, changes with our formula substitutions, working with HUSKY for payment of medically necessary products. CT breastfeeding coalition was awarded funds to increase diverse breastfeeding access. Reapplying for our SPAN grant.
7. Adjournment: Commissioner Hurlburt adjourned the meeting at 2:21 PM.

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