



Connecticut Milk Promotion Board

State of Connecticut
Department of Agriculture
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2024

1:00 PM

[View Recording](#)

Members Present: Commissioner Hurlburt, Jon Hermonot, Arthur Speilman, Dr. Puglisi, Sandra Boardman

Members Absent: Seth Bahler, Kies Orr-LaVack

DoAg Staff: Ally Hughes

Guests: Wilson Camelo, Mercedes Sanchez, Vanessa Alarcon, Heidi Harkopf, Kiley Cairns, Michael DeAngelis, Amanda Aldred

1. Welcome and Call to Order by Vice Chairman Hermonot at 1:05 PM.

2. Public Comment (3-minute limit per speaker)

a) No public comment

3. Review and approval of:

a) Motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for October 18, 2023, by Commissioner Hurlburt, seconded by Arthur Speilman. All in favor, motion carried.

4. Unfinished Business

a) New England Dairy provided its Quarterly Report Presentation for Farmer Engagement

b) New England Dairy provided its Quarterly Report Presentation for Consumer Nutrition and Education

c) Camelo provided its Quarterly Report

d) Ally Hughes provided an update on the nomination for the 2024 Innovative Dairy Farmer of the Year. She shared that Kies Orr-LaVack was not selected for 2024. Applications will open again in August of 2024 for 2025.

5. Financial Report/Budget Update

a) Ally Hughes provided an update and action on the quarterly financial report. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hurlburt, seconded by Sandra Boardman. All in favor, motion carried.

6. New Business

a) Motion to approve New England Dairy's Consumer Nutrition and Education invoice for \$44,657.63 by Commissioner Hurlburt, seconded by Arthur Speilman. All in favor, motion carried.

b) Motion to approve New England Dairy's Farmer Engagement invoice for \$24,045.68 by Commissioner Hurlburt, seconded by Arthur Speilman. All in favor, motion carried.

c) Motion to fund the cost of the Board Coordinator to attend the [NE-DBIC Dairy Summit](#) in April for up to \$400 by Commissioner Hurlburt, seconded by Arthur Spielman. All in favor, motion carried.

d) Revisited the conversation on unspent funds from prior contracts.

i) [Exhibit Farm](#)

(1) Dairy-specific exhibits to be used at tabling events and could be lent out to producers for

events

- ii) [Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference \(CIAC\)](#)
 - (1) Sponsorship that promotes CT Dairy at high school sports championships in CT
 - (2) Dr. Puglisi made a motion to contract with CIAC for one year for up to \$20,000, seconded by Arthur Spielman. Discussion ensued. All in favor, motion carried.

7. Executive Session

- a) Commissioner Hurlburt made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss the agency's response to New England Dairy regarding the Adopt a Cow program, seconded by Arthur Spielman.

8. Adjourn

- a) Commissioner Hurlburt motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Puglisi. The meeting adjourned at 2:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ally Hughes, AMIR I, on January 18, 2024.

DRAFT



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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January 17, 2024

Connecticut Milk Promotion Board members,

On December 5, 2023, the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board (CTMPB) coordinator, Ally Hughes, was contacted by a New England Dairy (NED) representative who coordinates the Adopt A Cow program in partnership with Dairy Excellence Foundation (DEF) and Discover Dairy regarding a name change for one of the calves in the Adopt A Cow program.

The Adopt a Cow is program is funded by the CTMPB through the Farmer Engagement contract and is one of the leading ways for farmers to engage with the next generation of milk and dairy consumers, while also educating students on farm life. One of the calves assigned to 178 Connecticut classrooms in Fall 2023 was named Mighty Midget, which drew concern from 11 participating schools who subsequently requested to be reassigned to another calf which was approved.

We share this with you for board awareness and to reiterate the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's commitment to inclusivity and anti-discrimination policies and initiatives. We expect this same level of sensitivity with all program partners. We also raise this out of concern as the contractor did not meet the requirements as outlined in their contract in section IV, (G) and (J) (1) and (2), regarding the submission of documents for approval and digital proofs of publication materials for review. The contractor is obligated to submit all materials, including those that have been subcontracted, for approval to prevent instances such as this from happening.

Sincerely,

Bryan P. Hurlburt

Commissioner

Connecticut Department of Agriculture