



Connecticut Milk Promotion Board

State of Connecticut
Department of Agriculture
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2026

1:00 PM

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Members Present: Commissioner Hurlburt, Seth Bahler, Michael Puglisi, Kies Orr-LaVack, Jon Hermonot

Members Absent: Art Speilman

DoAg Staff: Ally Hughes, Rebecca Eddy

Guest: Kiley Cairns (NED), Heidi Harkopf (NED), Amanda Aldred (NED), Michael DeAngelis (NED), Chris Cobb (CIAC)

1. Welcome and Call to Order by Chairman Seth Bahler at 1:04 pm.

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

No public comment

3. Review and approval of:

- a) Regular Meeting Minutes for January 21, 2026. Motion to approve by Jon Hermonot, seconded by Commissioner Hurlburt. Discussion that meeting minutes need revised to list Michael Puglisi as absent. Ally Hughes to revise. All in favor, motion carried.

Ally Hughes asked to move agenda item 6, a and b before unfinished business due to schedule for board members. Chairman approved. Commissioner Hurlburt gave a brief update on legislative efforts this session. Members gave an update on Dairy Day at the Capitol.

Ally Hughes asked to move agenda item 6, f, ahead of unfinished business. Chairman approved.

Commissioner Hurlburt motioned to adjourn to executive session with appropriate Milk Promotion Board staff to discuss contracts. Second, by Michael Puglisi. All in favor, adjourned to executive session at 1:15 pm. Meeting adjourned from executive session at 1:39 pm. Board has requested New England Dairy to provide a clear plan for spend down to the Board for review and vote at a special meeting the week of April 27, 2026.

4. Unfinished Business

- a) New England Dairy provided a quarterly report on Farmers Engagement, Consumer Nutrition and Education, and Media. Discussion ensued.
- b) CT Interscholastic Athletic Association (CIAC) provided a quarterly report. Discussion ensued.

5. Financial Report/Budget Update

- a) Update and action on the financial report provided by Ally Hughes. Motion to approve the budget as presented by Kies Orr-LaVack. Second, by Michael Puglisi. All in favor, motion carried.

6. New Business

- a) Michael Puglisi motioned to reelect board Chairman Seth Bahler and Vice Chairman Jon Hermonot, seconded by Kies Orr-LaVack. All in favor, motion carried.

- b) Rebecca Eddy gave an update on the CT Grown Magazine ad placement. The board asked them to have more information provided to vote at the special meeting the week of April 27.
- c) Michael Puglisi motioned to pay the board coordinator's salary at \$10,000. Seconded by Seth Bahler. All in favor, motion carried.

7. Motion to adjourn by Kies Orr-LaVack, seconded by Michael Puglisi. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Ally Hughes, AMIR II, on April 17, 2026.

DRAFT