



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Governor's Council for Agricultural Development



Phone: 860-713-2501

Fax: 860-713-2514

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 19, 2013

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

I. CONVENE MEETING

Commissioner Reviczky, council chair, called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

Other council members present were Allyn Brown, III, James Guida, George Hindinger, Herb Holden, Jr., Jamie Jones, Michael Keilty, Shelly Oechsler, Peter Orr, Kevin Sullivan, Jr., Henry Talmage, and Dr. Greg Weidemann.

Council members Winter Caplanson, Jason Hoagland, and Greg Veneziano were absent.

Also present were staff members from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and UConn, along with several guests.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The council reviewed draft minutes from December 13, 2012. George Hindinger moved to approve the minutes. Michael Keilty seconded. The council accepted the motion, with all in favor except Allyn Brown, III, who abstained.

III. REMARKS FROM CHAIR

Commissioner Reviczky introduced Jason Bowsza, who fills the vacancy created by the departure of Mary Grace Peak in the Office of the Commissioner. He then provided the council with a brief update on storm-related damage throughout the state and the possibility of disaster-related, low-interest loans being made available.

Commissioner Reviczky led the council through a quick review of Public Act 11-189, which provides the council with its two specific charges. He pointed out the law states "Any member absent from more than two meetings in a calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned."

IV. UPDATE ON GROW CONNECTICUT FARMS, FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

Commissioner Reviczky reported that his office sent a final draft of the report to Dean Weidemann's office on December 21, 2012, for graphic design and layout.

Dean Weidemann's communications office has since provided two interim formatted drafts, is currently making final revisions, and will deliver the report back to the Department of Agriculture as a PDF file. Commissioner Reviczky's office will have the final formatted report printed in limited quantities for presentation to Governor Malloy and the Connecticut General Assembly. Subsequent distribution will be done primarily in electronic format.

Commissioner Reviczky's office is working with Governor Malloy's office to coordinate the details of the formal presentation.

V. TOPIC-FOCUSED MEETINGS, DAY 2

Commissioner Reviczky announced that the council's second day of topic-focused meetings will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2013, at UConn's Rome Conference Center in Storrs. The three breakout sessions will be as follows:

- A. Farmland Resources (associated council working group: Ag Resources and Investments, chaired by George Hindinger)
- B. Producer Education/Training (associated council working group: Producer Education/Training, chaired by Jamie Jones)

C. Food Security and Urban Agriculture (associated council working group: Food Security, chaired by Michael Keilty)

A discussion ensued about the first day of topic-focused meetings held on November 7, 2012, with council members who participated in those sessions sharing information about their experiences with members who did not participate.

VI. UPDATE ON WORKING GROUPS

Commissioner Reviczky provided an update on the status of the council's 12 working groups, explaining that his office will circle back with invitees and follow up with non-respondents after the March 19, 2013, topic-focused meeting sessions.

Each working group will be chaired by a council member and will begin meeting later this year. The working groups will focus on the priorities that have emerged during stakeholder input over the past year, and will refine recommendations made thus far. Working groups will report back to the full council at regular quarterly meetings.

VII. NEXT SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next regular quarterly meeting will be held on May 21, 2013 (location to be announced).

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Chairman Reviczky adjourned meeting at 2:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Piotrowicz
February 20, 2013