



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Governor's Council for Agricultural Development



MINUTES OF MEETING HELD APRIL 4, 2017

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
450 Columbus Blvd.
Hartford, CT 06106

I. CONVENE MEETING

Chairman Reviczky called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. Also in attendance were council members Henry Talmage, Shelly Oechsler, Jamie Jones, Allyn Brown, III, and Michael Keilty.

Council members James Guida, Jason Hoagland, Kevin Sullivan, George Hindinger, Herb Holden, Jr., and Cameron Faustman were absent.

Staff from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture also were present.

II. REMARKS FROM CHAIR

Chairman Reviczky gave an update on the state's budget situation and potential associated impact on the agency and the Council's recommendations.

III. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: INITIATIVES/ISSUES

Chairman Reviczky led a discussion on a range of agricultural issues, including:

- Challenges faced by both farmers and regulators in adopting and enforcing on-farm practices under FSMA, and especially its Produce Safety Rule.
- Developments in the state's tobacco sector, including Chairman Reviczky's recent trip to Cuba and the use of Connecticut seed by growers in several Central American countries who label their cigars as being wrapped by Connecticut tobacco.
- Developments in the state's shellfish industry, including the potential to begin exporting to European and Asian markets.
- Challenges presented by an increasing number of solar-energy arrays being built on prime and important farmland soils.
- The importance for Connecticut farmers to participate in the 2017 USDA/NASS Census of Agriculture.

V. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING(S)

The council is next scheduled to meet on July 11, 2017.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Jensen
April 7, 2017