



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Governor's Council for Agricultural Development



MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JULY 14, 2015 Connecticut Department of Agriculture 165 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106

I. CONVENE MEETING

Chairman Reviczky called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Also in attendance were council members James Guida, Jamie Jones, Michael Keilty, Shelly Oechsler, Kevin Sullivan, Henry Talmage, and Gregory Weidemann.

Staff from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture also were present.

Council members Allyn Brown, III, George Hindinger, Jason Hoagland, Herb Holden, Jr., and Peter Orr were absent.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The council reviewed draft minutes from April 7, 2015. Dean Weidemann moved to approve them. Shelly Oechsler seconded. There was no discussion and the council accepted the motion unanimously.

III. REMARKS FROM CHAIR

Commissioner Reviczky provided an update on new state legislation with relevance to Connecticut agriculture. There was a discussion about state budget implementation and associated changes to Community Investment Act fund distribution. Commissioner Reviczky then updated the council on Connecticut Grown labeling enforcement efforts and on changes to staffing in the agency's Agricultural Development unit.

IV. CONSUMER SPENDING ON CONNECTICUT GROWN UPDATE

Adam Rabinowitz from the University of Connecticut presented updated estimates of consumer spending on Connecticut Grown food and farm products, explaining such estimates are challenged by limited data collection and availability. An in-depth discussion ensued relative to the council's statutory charge of making recommendations on ways to increase consumer spending on Connecticut Grown food and farm products by 2020.

V. GROW CONNECTICUT FARMS NEXT STEPS

The council continued discussing the status of its recommendations to date, identifying additional action steps to further implementation of those recommendations. It will determine at its next meeting its focus and priorities for the coming year.

VI. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING(S)

The council's next quarterly meeting will be held October 6, 2015.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Piotrowicz
July 14, 2015