



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Governor's Council for Agricultural Development



MINUTES OF MEETING HELD APRIL 12, 2016 Connecticut Department of Agriculture 165 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106

I. CONVENE MEETING

Chairman Reviczky called the meeting to order at approximately 1:14 p.m. Also in attendance were council members Allyn Brown, III, George Hindinger, Herb Holden, Jr., Henry Talmage, Michael Keilty, Kevin Sullivan, Gregory Weidemann, and Jason Hoagland. Member Jamie Jones participated by phone.

Council members James Guida and Shelly Oechsler were absent.

Staff from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture also were present.

II. REMARKS FROM CHAIR

Commissioner Reviczky gave updates on the state budget deficit and its impact on the agency's programs, priorities and management strategies.

III. GROW CONNECTICUT FARMS NEXT STEPS

Members held a discussion on the expected impact on farmers of the USDA Food Safety Modernization Act, and what measures should be taken to educate farmers about it.

Members also discussed the development of indoor agricultural facilities in Connecticut that could be used to grow food year-round.

Linda Piotrowicz, Director of the agency's Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Preservation, gave an update on efforts to promote and market Connecticut Grown products and programs, including through social media. She also introduced Elizabeth Aguilar, a new employee in the agency's Agricultural Development Unit, who is the contact for a variety of farm-to-wholesale programs.

Jason Bowsza of Commissioner Reviczky's staff gave an overview of recent changes to federal law redefining fluid milk as an indivisible load, allowing for increased weights on Connecticut roads. He also updated members on the state Dept. of Transportation's implementation of the changes as of April 1, 2016.

IV. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING(S)

- Tuesday, July 12, 2016, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 11, 2016, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted by Steve Jensen
April 16, 2016



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