



State of Connecticut
Department of Agriculture
Milk Regulation Board

July 23, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am

Milk Regulation Board members present: Gregory Peracchio, Michael Young, Neil Marcus, Peter Orr, Jack Tiffany, James Stearns, JoAnn Houser DPH, Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky. Absent: Mae Schmidle, Lucy Nolan

Agenda Item 3: no correspondence

Agenda item 4: Motion to approve the minutes of April 8, 2015 by Jack Tiffany, 2nd Gregory Peracchio. There was no discussion, minutes approved unanimously.

Agenda item 5 reports:

A discussion was held concerning Public Act No. 15-101 which treats parties in a shared animal ownership agreement the same as individuals who keep a milk producing animal to produce milk for personal use. DoAg submitted testimony to the Environment Committee opposing the bill, DPH opposed the bill but their testimony was not submitted to the Environment Committee.

A discussion was held on the impact of the 50% diversion of Community Investment Account funds beginning January 1, 2016 would impact Dairy Sustainability grants. Most of the impact within DoAg will be with Farmland Preservation funds, dairy should be "held harmless".

A discussion on federal action on the transportation bill. Provision to permit increased truck weights will potentially help Connecticut dairy by allowing similar weights to neighboring states which would reduce milk hauling costs, improve safety by permitting trucks to run full as milk tankers are not permitted to be baffled like other liquid hauling tankers for sanitary reasons. DOT released a study indicating that with the additional axles required for the additional weight, wear and tear on the infrastructure would be reduced.

A discussion was held on a federal Genetically Modified Organism bill that would preempt state laws.

Agenda item 6: no old business

Agenda item 7: A discussion was held concerning Milk Regulation Board appointments. Board members serve contemporaneously with the Governor.

Agenda item 8: no public comment

Motion to adjourn made by Neil Marcus, 2nd by Jim Stearns. Meeting adjourned at 10:55

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Kasacek
Clerk of the Board