



State of Connecticut
Department of Agriculture
Milk Regulation Board

20 Oct 16

October 19, 2016
Regular Meeting

Present:

Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Gregory Perracchio
Peter Orr
Jim Stearns

Christine Applewhite, DPH
Lucy Nolan
Neil Marcus
Jack Tiffany

Absent: Michael Young Mae Schmidle

Meeting called to order at 09:07 am

Introductions were conducted

No correspondence was received

Minutes from July 13, 2016 meeting were presented to the members. Gregory Perracchio motioned to approve, 2nd Peter Orr, there was no discussion The July 13, 2016 minutes were approved unanimously.

The Commissioner reported the agency submitted proposed budget cuts to OPM. Agency still has statutory obligations that it must meet including public health and public safety obligations. The agency is looking at reducing services offered while maintaining the critical services.

The department submitted legislative concepts, no dairy related initiatives were submitted.

Commissioner discussed solar panel proposals. Department currently has little input on siting these projects on prime and important farmland. Peter Orr told the board that these projects out compete traditional uses for farmland such as growing crops.

The USDA Milk Producer Margin Protection program was discussed. Even with current low milk prices the program will have little benefit to CT milk producers. Necessary changes will have to come through the Farm Bill. Currently trying to get USDA to recognize regional input costs to calculate feed costs.

Meeting dates for 2017 were discussed, members were given a schedule of 2017 meetings.

No old business

No new business

No public comment

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 am