



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Governor's Council for Agricultural Development Agriculture/Food Infrastructure Working Group



MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 6/24/13

Hartford Regional Market
101 Reserve Rd., Hartford, CT

I. CALL TO ORDER

Herb Holden, Jr., working group chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM. Other working group members present were Chris Bassette, Andy Bozzuto, Fred Monahan, Commissioner Steven Reviczky and Scott Stanton.

Working group members Joe Arisco, Bill Syme and Chad Simoneaux were absent.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Working group members introduced themselves and provided information about their areas of expertise.

III. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND UPDATE ON GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Herb Holden, Jr. provided an overview of the council's work since it convened in January 2012.

IV. INTRODUCTION/DISCUSSION OF WORKING GROUP ASSIGNMENT

Herb Holden, Jr. introduced the assignment that the Agriculture/Food Infrastructure working group will be undertaking in 2013, to "determine the specific steps for GCAD's 2012 Recommendation No. 1 regarding the study of infrastructure gaps and opportunities for the aggregation, light processing, and distribution of Connecticut Grown farm products."

V. DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT DELIVERABLES

The group engaged in an in-depth discussion about its assignment and came to consensus that there is need to create more processing capability at Hartford Regional Market, that an on-line distribution system, and surveys of farmers regarding processing needs would be useful. There was also consensus that there should be ongoing communication between producers (through the CT Farm Bureau or otherwise).

VI. DETERMINATION OF RESOURCES REQUIRED

The group discussed the resources required by each component of the draft deliverables and determined that USDA grant(s) and/or state resources (primarily IT) may be required.

VII. RECAP AND NEXT STEPS

Herb Holden, Jr. recapped the highlights of the discussion and the next steps, which include follow-up by phone/email as the consensus recommendations are refined for the GCAD.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Herb Holden, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 3:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Stephen Anderson
Submittal Date: 6/25/13