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[www.rivercog.org](http://www.rivercog.org)

Chester, Clinton, Cromwell,  
Deep River, Durham, East Haddam,  
East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Kill-  
ingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Mid-  
dletown, Old Lyme,  
Old Saybrook, Portland, Westbrook

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## LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

December 15, 2022

### Members:

Chester:  
Clinton: Richard Martin  
Cromwell:  
Deep River Ron Larson  
Durham: Warren Herzig  
East Haddam:  
East Hampton: -----  
Essex: -----  
Haddam: John Halfinger  
Killingworth: Walter Adametz  
Lyme:  
Middlefield:  
Middletown:  
Old Lyme:  
Old Saybrook:  
Portland: Alan Fenrow  
Westbrook: -----

### Staff:

Janice Ehle/Meyer

### Guests:

Jake Ricker

### Meeting

The meeting was a Zoom call and in person at RiverCOG office.

### 1) Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by John Halfinger at 7:05. A motion was made by Walter Adametz and seconded by Allan Fenrow to accept the minutes from the November 17, 2022, meeting. Motion approved.

## **2) Public Comments/Presentations**

A presentation was done by Jim Hyde of NRCS to explain what liquid calcium is and how it can be used to help the soil.

Tim Cook from AGRITEC talked about the liquid calcium product that they sell and how it works.

A good round of questions and answers were talked through.

## **3) RAC Board**

We are in need of 8 Representatives for the RAC Board.

Cromwell

East Haddam

East Hampton

Essex

Lyme

Middlefield - Nate

Old Lyme

Westbrook

## **4) On-line sales for local farms**

RiverCOG lawyer is reviewing the contract.

## **5) Website –**

A. Janice said that the revised application that is now on the knowyourfarmers.com website.

B. The monthly web statistics were presented for knowyourfarmers.org.

## **6) Farm Viability Grant**

1. The trailer has been ordered and will arrive in January. Modification will be done after the trailer arrives.

2. Demo Day on March 2<sup>nd</sup> – a suggestion was made to have the Demo Day at the Haddam Extension Center and bring the no-till equipment there. If the weather is bad that will be a place to talk, have presentations etc.

3. Having lunch will bring in more people.

4. Having someone come and do a “Soil Test 101” class would be good addition to the Demo Day presentations.

## **7) CEDS grant**

The recommendations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was presented by explaining the agricultural sections.

Recommendations include:

- Evaluate potential for culinary/food products incubator to support the regions' agricultural industry.
- Support the region's agricultural industry in diversifying operations to other endeavors compatible with agriculture use.
- Comments were made that those recommendations were very broad and covered many aspects of agriculture.

## **8) Department of Agriculture Grant – Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry Grant**

Janice presented the idea to not do an individual application but to join RC&D on their application for an Equipment Hub in our region. Everyone agreed with that suggestion.

## **9) Local farm composting project**

1. Janice explained that she had talked with a local farmer to possibly do a regional composting project. A discussion followed concerning the capacity of digesters.

## **10) Old Business**

Warren Herzig talked about the Farm Store zoning code rejection from P&Z. The Durham Agriculture Commission is talking about changing the acreage requirements from 5 to 10. Durham Agriculture Commission will be presenting to P&Z again to try to get Farm Store regulations included in the zoning code for Durham.

## **11) New Business**

1. Janice talked about having a farm energy workshop at the Haddam Extension Center. RC&D will do the presentation for local farmers.

Comments were that the price of electricity will be going up in 2023 and any savings that farmers can learn about would be good.

2. The new proposed Lyme zoning regulations were presented. Since this was the first time that Board members saw the proposed regulations, a suggestion was made to have another meeting to focus on them. The public hearing will be on January 9, 2023.

## **12) Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned and conversations continued. Members enjoyed being together and having an in-person meeting after only doing zoom meetings for years.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 7:00 pm. There may be a special meeting to discuss the Lyme P&Z zoning regulation proposal and to talk about what RAC wants in the proposed equipment hub with the DoAg grant.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Ehle/Meyer

Draft