
**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
Agriculture/Soils Working Sub-Group
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: February 13, 2020
Meeting Time: 10 AM
Meeting Location: 450 Columbus Blvd
Hartford, CT 06103

ATTENDANCE

Working Group Member	Title	Organization	Present
Bryan Hurlburt	Commissioner- Dept. of Ag		Y
Abigail Maynard		CT Ag Experiment Station	Y
Dean Chaubey		University of Connecticut	N
Tom Mogart		USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service	Y
Denise Savageau/ Lilian Ruiz		Ct Council on Soil and Water Conservation	Y
Joan Nichols		CT Farm Bureau	Y
Chelsea Gazillo	Executive Director	Working Lands Alliance	Y
Kip Kolesinska		USDA NRCS	Y

Associated Staff		Organization	Prese
Holly Lalime		DEEP	Y
Kayleigh Royston		DOAG	Y

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Announcements

The Meeting was called to order at 10:14 AM by Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt.

Remarks by the Chair

Commissioner Hurlburt thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the conversation and effort to work collaboratively on addressing climate change. As climate change is one of Governor Lamont's top three initiatives, the Department of Agriculture is focused on being responsive to the challenges of climate change and is committed to agriculture being a part of the solution. The Department is working towards an implementable solution that will allow farmers to execute procedures and methodologies which can help mitigate climate change while being practical and accessible.

Agenda Item(s)

Facilitated by Bryan Hurlburt, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture

Introduction of Committee Members

Each committee member was asked to introduce themselves and begin to discuss their goals for the sub-group.

Goals include:

- Having agriculture owners and operators assist with mitigation goals and implementation strategies to ensure no missed opportunities.
- Ensuring Connecticut is a state that is both preparing for and prospering through the climate change challenges.
- Ensuring consumers in Connecticut are a part of the ongoing conversation.
- Ensuring that farms are recognized as a place for renewable energy production.
- Ensuring farmers are getting dollars and credit for the work that they are doing on addressing climate change while also ensuring the public is aware of these efforts and that they are valued.
- We should work with the Ag Experiment Stations existing research and use their ability to work on projects for farmers.

Notes from introductions:

- Ensure we are using science based metrics.
- Look at reports done by previous administrations. Can these be used as a baseline moving forward.
- The subgroup should be looking at other funding opportunities and leveraging federal dollars to bring programs into the state.
- Using success stories from farmers to garner interest. People want to see true results of return on investment/increased production.

Commissioner Hurlburt invited members to reach out to colleagues or legislators to attend

Meeting Date council meetings, or any of the upcoming (schedule pending) public hearings that will be held on the matter.

Committee Discussion.

Review [Governor Lamont's Agriculture Policy Transition](#) Document

The Committee discussed the frequency of meetings and will work to offer a call-in option to accommodate those who cannot meet in person.

The Committee decided to study the efforts of the other working groups to ensure cohesion and reduce duplicity.

[Wetlands Subgroup January 29, 2020 Meeting Minutes](#)

[Forest Subgroup January 31, 2020 Meeting Minutes](#)

[Forest Subgroup February 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes](#)

It was noted that the US Innovation Center for dairy has a 2050 goal of making dairy “net-zero.” More information can be found on the [Innovation Center for US Dairy](#) website.

Topics for Proposed Subject Matter Public Hearings.

1. Farming/Land Use Practices
 - a. Implementation
 - b. Outreach
 - i. Internal
 - ii. External
 - c. Funding
2. Market Opportunities
 - a. Implementations
 - b. Outreach
 - i. Internal
 - ii. External
 - c. Funding
3. Innovation Technology
 - a. Implementation
 - b. Outreach
 - i. Internal
 - ii. External
 - c. Funding
4. Energy
 - a. Implementation
 - b. Outreach
 - i. Internal
 - ii. External
 - c. Funding

The committee discussed creating a short survey for farmers to complete as they are doing crop reporting. This would also be distributed through the Department of Agriculture's weekly “Ag Report”

The committee identified the following possible presenters for subject matter public hearing. All additional suggestions should be sent to Kayleigh.Royston@ct.gov

- ❖ Market Opportunities
 - CISA
 - Wesleyan University
- ❖ Technology/Innovation
 - Farmer Panel- Discuss practices currently being used and/or barriers to implementing practices
- ❖ Energy
 - Dairy Innovation for Energy
- ❖ Farming and Land Use
 - Indigo-identifying growers who are using certain practices and aggregating that to larger buyers
 - Emily Cole- American Farmland Trust

Potential Meeting locations include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Jones Auditorium
- ❖ Avery Point
- ❖ Torrington
- ❖ TAC

All additional suggestions should be sent to Kayleigh.Royston@ct.gov

Additional Meeting Materials:

[Institute for Ag and Trade Policy](#): State Soil Health Initiatives

Public comments

There was no public comment at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM by Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt.