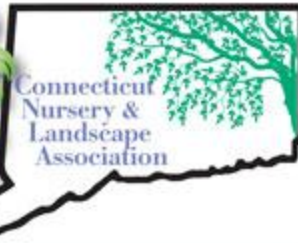


CNLA Update



CNLA Update - January 24, 2014

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DEEP Chief of Staff Klee to Succeed Esty

On January 15th DEEP Commissioner Dan Esty announced that he is resigning. He plans to leave DEEP to resume his position at Yale Law School on February 3rd. Yesterday, Governor Malloy announced that Robert Klee, DEEP chief of staff to Commissioner Esty will be his successor. Klee has a varied background with a BA from Princeton in Geology and Earth Science, a master's degree in environmental management from Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He has a law degree and a doctorate in environmental science and policy. He was hired by Commissioner Esty in April of 2011 as his chief of staff. Formerly, he was a member of the law firm of Wiggin & Dana.

CNLA Participates In Meeting of Ag Organizations to Discuss 2014 Legislative Agendas

CNLA participated in a meeting Friday (Jan. 24) at the Legislative Office Building with a number of agricultural and natural resources organizations to discuss the 2014 legislative session. Those attending included: The Connecticut Farm Bureau Federation, Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association, Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Association, Working Lands Alliance, the University of Connecticut and Agricultural Experiment Station, Connecticut Environmental Council, Inc., Connecticut Irrigation Contractors Association and Koskoff Egg Farm.

The meeting was extremely informative with each group sharing their legislative priorities and agenda. Additional meetings of the group will be held as needed during the session. Participants also agreed to seek a joint meeting with the Commissioner of Agriculture to continue the discussion of the best ways to promote the industry sector.

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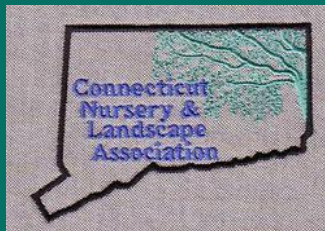
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Budget Update

The budget surplus for the fiscal year that ends on June 30, 2014, is now projected to be over \$500 million. In response, Republicans, though in the minority, are calling for sales tax cuts and restoring some sales tax exemptions as the Legislature considers adjustments to the biennial budget.

The governor, whose budget proposal for the 2014-15 fiscal year is due to the General Assembly Feb. 5, hinted yesterday that he might propose a tax cut in two weeks when he delivers his latest budget to the legislature.

Changes in Legislature and Legislative Leadership Changes on the Horizon

With former State Senator Toni Harp's election as Mayor of New Haven, a special election for her Senate seat, the 10th Senatorial District, is scheduled for February 25. State Rep. Gary Holder-Winfield is the endorsed Democratic candidate and is expected to retain the seat for the Democrats in this district that covers portions of New Haven and West Haven.

Democratic State Senator Ed Meyer, Co-Chair of the Environment Committee, is rumored to be considering retiring from the state Senate. Speculation is that Ted Kennedy Jr would run for his seat if Sen. Meyer decides not to run in the 12th Senatorial District which includes the shoreline towns of Branford, Durham, Madison, Guilford, Killingworth and North Branford.

Regarding the Gubernatorial Race, Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton has entered the Republican contest. Other major candidates include 2010 nominee Tom Foley, Senate Republican Leader John McKinney and State Senator Toni Boucher. Senator McKinney's announcement forecasts change in the Senate Republican caucus leadership for 2015. Governor Malloy has not yet announced his plans, but he is expected to run for a second term.

2014 Legislative Session to Convene February 5th

While the session has not started, committees may raise bills. The Planning and Development Committee is the first committee to raise legislative concepts. Today the Planning and Development Committee raised concepts including the following: AN ACT CONCERNING SOLAR PANELS ON PRIME FARMLAND.

We will keep you informed once the bill language is published and released. The action will be very fast-

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paced and deadlines will come quickly. We will keep you posted.



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