

# Minutes from the Berks County Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting August 31, 2011

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Chairman Glenn R. Seidel called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Berks County Conservation District to order on Wednesday, June 27, 2011 at 1:05 p.m. in the conference room of the Berks County Agriculture Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533.

The group pledged their allegiance to the flag.

***The following Directors were present:*** Glenn R. Seidel, Chairman; Piper L. Sherburne, Vice-Chairman; Mark A. Wolfskill, Treasurer; Larry Kehl; T. John Bixler; Commissioner Christian Leinbach and Brian D. Boyer.

***The following Associate Directors were present:*** Henry Bohn; John Schueller; Steve Miller; Ross Stowell; Leonard Good and Jim McCarthy.

***The following District Staff was present:*** Dan Greig, Interim District Manager; and Tammy Bartsch, Office Administrator.

***The following Cooperating Agencies representatives were present:*** Michael Blake, NRCS and Mena Hautau, Penn State Cooperative Extension.

***Also present were:*** Richard Weinstein, Public and Erinn Connor, Reading Eagle Newspaper.

## **Public Comment:**

Mark Wolfskill made the committee aware he would have closing comments regarding Ray Kettner.

- Action on Minutes of July 27, 2011 meeting  
**Motion** to accept the June 27, 2011 minutes was made by **Brian Boyer**, seconded by **Larry Kehl**, motion passed.  
**Discussion:** None
- Payment of July 2011 bills  
**Motion** to pay the bills was made by **Piper Sherburne**, seconded by **Mark Wolfskill**, motion passed.  
**Discussion:** None
- Financial Statements  
Leonard Good pointed out that the financial statements provided each month do not show the fixed assets.  
**Discussion:** Dan Greig and Tammy Bartsch are to work with the accountant and the auditor to rectify the problem.

# Minutes from the Berks County Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting August 31, 2011

---

**Correspondence:** See Attachments

## **Cooperating Agency Reports**

***PA DEP – No Report***

***PA DCNR – No Report***

***NRCS – Michael Blake***

- No conservation plans to be acknowledged this month.
- There will be grazing training September 13, 2011 from 10:30 am – 2:30 pm.
- The two vacant positions on the staff should be filled in the near future.

***FSA – No Report***

***PA Fish & Boat Commission – No Report***

***PA Game Commission – No Report***

***Cooperative Extension Update – Mena Hautau***

- Several handouts were made available to those attending the meeting.
- Brian Bloch's farm will again be participating in the No-Till program.

***Berks County Association of Township Officials - No Report***

***Agricultural Coordinator – No Report***

- See handout for Farm Tour in October

***Agricultural Land Preservation – No Report***

## **Committee Reports**

***SEPA RC&D – Steve Miller***

- Asked Board if they would be willing to have the Conservation District's name on the trailer.

**Motion** to pay \$650.00 to have the Berks County Conservation District's name added to the planting trailer was made by

**Brian Boyer**, seconded by **Commissioner Leinbach**, motion passed.

**Discussion:** Board gave direction that the line item in the 2011 budget for the picnic fund should be used to pay the \$650.00.

# Minutes from the Berks County Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting August 31, 2011

---

## ***D & G R Quality Assurance Board – Piper Sherburne***

- There is \$20,048.56 in the account, most of which is committed to projects.

## ***Workshop Conference Call – Meeting Cancelled***

## ***Admin Tech / Ag Committee – Minutes Attached***

- **Operating Reserve Fund Policy**

**Motion** to adopt the Operating Reserve Fund Policy was made by **Larry Kehl** seconded by **Piper Sherburne** motion passed.

**Discussion:** None

- **457 Retirement**

**Motion** to sign Retirement Plan Resolution was made by **Larry Kehl** seconded by **Brian Boyer** motion passed.

**Discussion:** None

- **Proposed Procedure for 102 Site Violations**

**Motion** to have the Berks County Conservation District move from Level II to Level III for enforcement of Chapter 102, upon Dan Greig's completion of training, was made by **Brian Boyer** seconded by **Piper Sherburne** motion passed.

**Discussion:**

If the Berks County Conservation District is required to have a solicitor present during an enforcement hearing, the District shall utilize the DEP solicitor.

The District is to continue working with the public trying to get them into compliance resorting to enforcement as a last resort.

## ***Resource Management Committee – Brian Boyer – Minutes Attached***

- **Lyme Disease**

**Discussion:**

PBS had a special on Lyme disease

California has Vector Control Testing

There is a need for a Lyme disease program; maybe reaching out to the local health care facilities (St. Joseph's, Reading Hospital, and Hershey) would help to put something together.

Dan Greig is to continue investigating and take findings to the RMC committee.

# Minutes from the Berks County Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting August 31, 2011

---

## **Unfinished Business:**

- **Curtis Bashore's "Artifacts" Update**  
Work in progress.
- **Pennvest Update**  
Kate O'Brien submitted the first application on behalf of the District last week.
- **Topton Borough/Toad Creek**  
Kate O'Brien met with Tony Franco, visited two sites; a letter will be going out in the near future.
- **Position Bond**  
Authorization is needed to increase the bond to \$300,000.00 per occurrence covering the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, District Manager and Office Administrator because the premium will increase from \$328.00 per year to \$883.00 per year and there will be a \$3,000.00 deductible. Background checks are not needed just authorization to process the paperwork.
- **Letter to the Commissioners**  
Commissioner Leinbach advised the Conservation District will have the area across the hall to be used as they see fit; lease will be amended accordingly if District is in agreement. Brian Boyer asked that the amended lease be forwarded to him for review by the RMC.

## **New Business:**

- **Affiliate Membership(s) - None**
- **Revised MOU's for Chapter 102**  
The District has sent out the revised MOU's to the municipalities. Several municipalities have signed and returned the MOU. Signature of the Chairman is needed.
- **Future of the Building**  
There was discussion as to the future of the Ag Center because of an article in the Reading Eagle. The article presented an idea, since the VA Center needs remodeling which would be very expensive, it would be less expense to demolish the VA building and add on to the he Ag Center. At this time, that is just an idea; nothing has been decided or started on.  
Larry Kehl mentioned it would be a good idea for the District to have an Environmental Center; Commissioner Leinbach suggested they consider something be done at Camp

# Minutes from the Berks County Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting August 31, 2011

---

Joy. Dan Greig is to take Kate O’Brien to Camp Joy, look around and see what potential there may be.

- **Conservation Planting Trailer**

See motion in COMMITTEE REPORTS; SEPA RC&D

- **Old Credit Cards**

When John Ravert closed the old credit card account, the credit card company sent him a check for the “reward points”; John in turn sent a check to the District. A thank you letter was sent to John.

- **Conservation District Fund Allocation Program ACT FFY 2011-12**

Authorization is requested for the Chairman to sign the yearly application renewal that will be submitted to the State Conservation Commission.

**Motion** to sign the paperwork was made by

**Brian Boyer**, seconded by **Piper Sherburne**, motion passed.

**Discussion:** None

- **Memorial Endowment Fund**

**Motion** to make standard donation to the Memorial Endowment fund in the name of Wm. Ray Kettner was made by,

**Brian Boyer**, seconded by **Commissioner Leinbach**, motion passed.

**Discussion:** None

### **NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS: Three (3)**

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre	Reviewer
Dennis Musser	Bethel	56,000 Broilers, 4 Steers & 8 Sheep	9.25	CAO	100.87	10.9	Drzal
Leroy Sunday	Richmond	40 Cow/Calf, 40 Steer, 1 Bull, 100 Hogs & 20 Goats	139.1	VAO	102.9	0.74	Drzal
J. Martin Hoover	Cumru	70 Milking Cows, 15 Dry Cows, 40 Heifers & 40 Calves	25	CAO	109.5	4.38	Drzal

**Motion** to acknowledge the Nutrient Management Plans of Dennis Musser, Leroy Sunday and J. Martin Hoover was made by

**Commissioner Leinbach**, seconded by **T. John Bicksler**, motion passed.

**Discussion:** None

# Minutes from the Berks County Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting August 31, 2011

---

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMMENDMENTS: Zero (0)**

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS REQUESTING REMOVAL: Six (6)**

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre
John Hix (Skyline Acres)	Upper Bern	450 Milking Cows, 70 Dry Cows & 350 Heifers	781.5	VAO	882.6	1.13
David Pool (Fantasy Land Holstein)	Upper Bern	200 Milking Cows, 10 Dry Cows, 100 Heifers & 5 Bulls	380.0	VAO	335.5	0.88
Carl Hurst	Heidelberg	18,000 Layers & 50 Steer	178.1	VAO	188.5	1.06
Scott Hartman	Upper Bern	200 Steer & 100 Hogs	52.0	VAO	49.6	0.93
Paul Schlenker	Penn	100 Calf/Cow, 3 Bull & 50 Steer	164.7	VAO	181.7	1.1
Solomon Meyer (Shalom Farms)	Jefferson	41 Milking Cows, 23 Heifers & 12 Calves	60.5	VAO	60.0	1.01

**Motion** to remove John Hix (Skyline Acres), David Pool (Fantasy Land Holstein), Carl Hurst, Scott Hartman, Paul Schlenker and Solomon Meyer (Shalom Farms) was made by **Commissioner Leinbach**, seconded by **Mark Wolfskill**, Motion passed.

**Discussion:** Stephanie Drzal made the Board aware of a plan she and Dan Greig have been working on to educate the farmers and possibly have them write their own plan and stay in or come back to the program.

**Motion** was made to support Stephanie Drzal in her implementing the new program after the new manual in available was made by

**Commissioner Leinbach** seconded by **Piper Sherburne**, motion passed.

**Discussion:** None

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS EXPIRING: Zero (0)**

The delegated conservation district shall approve, modify or disapprove any NMP within 90 days of receipt of the complete plan.

The district’s action on the plan requires a formal action of the board.

If a NMP operation plan is disapproved, the NMP operation submitting the plan for the first time shall have 90 days after receipt of a written notice explaining specific reasons for the disapproval to resubmit a revised plan.

“The Berks County Conservation District concurs with these plans, based on NRCS certification that the plans meet the standards and specifications of the Pennsylvania Field Office Technical Guide for NRCS.”

OR AS APPROPRIATE

“The Berks County Conservation District concurs with these plans, based on the contracted 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Planner’s certification that the plans meet the standards and specifications of the Pennsylvania Field Office Technical Guide for NRCS.”

# Minutes from the Berks County Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting August 31, 2011

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**REPORTS:** District Manager and Staff Reports are attached.

**COMMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Meeting** was recessed at 3:01 p.m. into an Executive Session.

Directors returned and Chairman Seidel reconvened the meeting:

**Motion** was made to adjourn at 3:10 p.m. by  
**Christian Leinnbach**, seconded by **Larry Kehl**, motion passed.  
**Discussion:** None

**UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS and HOLIDAYS:**

***September***

- Sep. 8, 2011 Admin Tech / Ag Committee – 9:00 a.m.
- Sep. 14, 2011 Workshop Conference Call – 10:00 a.m.
- Sep. 20, 2011 RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- Sep. 28, 2011 Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

***October***

- Oct. 12, 2011 Admin Tech / Ag Committee – 9:00 a.m.
- Oct. 13, 2011 Workshop Conference Call – 10:00 a.m.
- Oct. 14, 2011 Legislative Breakfast – 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
- Oct. 18, 2011 RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- Oct. 20, 2011 Berks County Association of Township Officials Annual Meeting
- Oct. 26, 2011 Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

***November***

- Nov. 9, 2011 Admin Tech / Ag Committee – 9:00 a.m.
  - Nov. 10, 2011 Workshop Conference Call – 10:00 a.m.
  - Nov. 15, 2011 RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
  - Nov. 16, 2011 Engineers Workshop – 7:00 a.m.
  - Nov. 30, 2011 Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.
- \*\*\*\*NOTE the Board meeting is going to be held in the auditorium

***December***

- Dec. 8, 2011 Admin Tech / Ag Committee – 9:00 a.m.
- Dec. 14, 2011 Workshop Conference Call – 10:00 a.m.
- Dec. 20, 2011 RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- Dec. 28, 2011 Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.