

Minutes from the Berks County Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting July 27, 2011

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 1:00 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; Commissioner Christian Leinbach and Brian D. Boyer.

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

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

The following Cooperating Agencies representatives were present: Kefeni Kejela, NRCS; Tami Hildebrand, Agricultural Land Preservation and John Sabaitis, PA Fish and Boat Commission.

Also present were: Richard Weinstein, Public and Val Lacin, Reading Eagle Newspaper.

Public Comment: None

- Action on Minutes of June 29, 2011 meeting
Motion to accept the June 29, 2011 minutes was made by **Commissioner Leinbach**, seconded by **Piper Sherburne**, motion passed.
Discussion: None
- Financial Statements
Motion to accept the July 2011 financial statement was made by **Commissioner Leinbach**, seconded by **Brian Boyer**, motion passed.
Discussion: None
- Payment of July 2011 bills
Motion to pay the bills was made by **Brian Boyer**, seconded by **Mark Wolfskill**, motion passed.
Discussion: None

Correspondence: See Attachments

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Cooperating Agency Reports

PA DEP – No Report

PA DCNR – Rick Hartlieb

- A piece of an Ash tree and vile containing an Emerald Ash Borer were passed around so everyone could see the damage done and the beetle that causes the damage.
- Rick explained the Emerald Ash Borer is attracted to all types of Ash trees not just the Emerald and the beetle is not yet in Berks county.

NRCS – Kefeni Kejela

- NRCS is working on 7 plans, 500 acres.
- No change in staff.

FSA – No Report

PA Fish & Boat Commission – John Sabaitis

- Hot weather has slowed fishing, the fish are okay, it's because people do not want to be outside in the heat.
- The Commission has been at Blue Marsh Lake regulating speed and doing safety checks.
- Commissioner Leinbach asked if the Fish and Boat Commission heard anything about Kaercher Creek and the their lease with the County? Mr. Sabaitis was not aware of anything.
- Ross Stowell asked if the Commission knew the percentage of Kayakers who wear PFD's? Mr. Sabaitis did not know the percentage.
- Larry Kehl asked if Mr. Sabaitis knew when Toad Creek was reconstructed; he did not know.

PA Game Commission – No Report

Cooperative Extension Update – No Report

- Larry Kehl suggested the Board send a letter to Morgan Firestine congratulating her on her new position. Ms. Firestine is now the Department of Agriculture Executive Assistant to the Deputies Secretaries.

To Do: Dan Greig is to write the letter.

Berks County Association of Township Officials

- Annual Meeting is October 20, 2011 – Oley Fairgrounds
- The Association would like the District to speak at the event.

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Agricultural Coordinator – No Report

Agricultural Land Preservation – Tami Hildebrand

- 627 Farms preserved covering 63,709 acres
- Ag Land Preservation Selection for 2011 – there were 12 farms selected for a total of 984 acres

Committee Reports

SEPA RC&D – Steve Miller

- Board meeting was Tuesday July 26, 2011, at the meeting it was decided that John Metrick would not be replaced.
- RC&D is not in the NRCS office; things are okay for now.
- Chairman Seidel asked the following:
 - 1) In the past has the District donated?
Yes and would request it continue to do so.
 - 2) Does RC&D have a place to meet?
Yes for now.
Chairman Seidel offered the Ag Center if needed.

D & G R Quality Assurance Board – Piper Sherburne

- There is \$20,047.07 in the account.

Workshop Conference Call – Meeting Cancelled

Admin Tech / Ag Committee – Minutes Attached

- **Right-to-Know Officer(s)**
Motion to make Tammy Bartsch the Right-to-Know Officer and Dan Greig the back up Right-to-Know Officer was made by **Larry Kehl** seconded by **Piper Sherburne** motion passed.
Discussion: None
- **457 Retirement**
Dan Greig should contact Christi in the County H.R. Department and she may have information that would be helpful.

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- **E&S Program Relocation**

To Do: Send a letter to all three Commissioners advising we need to use the room to set up a server etc.; be specific - ask if the room could be given to the District "in-kind". The Commissioners meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Motion to have Dan Greig, Brian Boyer and Commissioner Leinbach work together to acquire the space across the hall from the Conservation District office was made by

Larry Kehl seconded by **Commissioner Leinbach** motion passed.

Discussion: None

- **E&S Chapter 102 Delegation Agreement**

Direction: Find out what more information; to be continued at the August Admin Tech meeting.

- **Computers**

Chairman Seidel asked: Is there a way to bring a signal into the Conservation District to provide some wireless service?

Answer: Yes, Broadband

- **Legislative Breakfast**

Ross Stowell asked if there is going to be a Legislative Breakfast this year because it is July and last year the event was in October?

To Do: Add Legislative Breakfast to the Admin Tech Agenda for the August meeting.

Direction: Larry Kehl and the Admin Tech committee are to decide on a date and begin setting up the event, they do not have to wait to bring it to the Board meeting.

Resource Management Committee – Brian Boyer – Minutes Attached

- Ross Stowell asked if maybe the District was missing an opportunity in reaching some children because the District has not had an Elementary Envirothon for two years?

Discussion:

An Elementary Envirothon will involve the need for assistance by several District Staff members as well as District Partners.

Kate O'Brien is going to put together a ballpark of the number of hours and staff needed to make the Envirothon happen.

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Brian Boyer advised the item will be added to the budget, if the Elementary Envirothon does not work out, the funds may be used for the Jr./Sr. Envirothon.

Piper Sherburne suggested maybe the District should contact the EAC's and Watersheds for their assistance.

Commissioner Leinbach suggested working with the Conservancy and see what can be done.

Direction: Kate O'Brien is to meet with Kim Murphy of the Conservancy and a) see if there is an opportunity and b) define it.

- **Draft Reserve Operation Fund Policy**

To Do: Bring to both committees in August.

- **Computer Draft RFP**

After talking to the County; will be able to move forward.

- **Bond**

Motion to contact insurance agency to increase bond and include the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, District Manager, Secretary, Treasurer and Office Administrator

was made by

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

Discussion: None

Unfinished Business:

- ***Curtis Bashore's "Artifacts" Update***

Work in progress.

- **Pennvest Update**

Kate O'Brien explained that Red Barn contacted the District about 1 ½ weeks ago about two farms that they wanted to secure Pennvest funding for. Both farms were originally submitted to Pennvest through Lancaster County Conservation District, Pennvest declined the farms because they do not want District's to cross County lines; Kate also explained the application will need to be submitted for the August round and not wait until November.

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Motion to go ahead and pursue the Pennvest Grants and partner with Red Barn as needed

was made by

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

Discussion: None

Motion to go ahead and pursue the Pennvest Grant and partner with Red Barn as needed

was made by

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

Discussion: The Planning Commission did not approve one of the farms. The Lauver farm in Brecknock is preserved.

Farm is operated at its best ability.

DIRECTION: If the District is going to work with Pennvest, Dan Greig and Kate O'Brien are going to be the point people who will handle things or appoint people as needed.

Motion to have Resolution signed

was made by

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

Discussion: None

Motion to have Letter of Responsibility signed

was made by

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

Discussion: None

- **Thank You**

Kate O'Brien was granted permission to read a written statement to the Board on behalf of the staff thanking them bringing Dan Greig to the District and to thank Dan for all that he has done for both the staff and the District.

- **Topton Borough/Toad Creek**

Kate O'Brien has been in touch with Tony Franco and will be going on a field trip with him.

- **PACD Joint Annual Conference at State College, PA on July 11-12, 2011**

General consensus of the attendees was the main topic was drilling an water quality pertaining to Marcellus Shale.

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New Business:

- **Affiliate Membership(s)**

<i>Affiliate Member</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Maiden Creek Watershed Association	\$40.00

- **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.

- **BMP Park Document** (See attached)

Maybe the signs that will be purchased (using the grant awarded for signage) let the public know this is a learning tool and why?

There was a brief discussion that maybe another area could be turned into a working rain garden? Commissioner Leinbach advised the Board that if there is interest in more land, a letter needs to be sent to all three Commissioners making a very specific request.

- **Chesapeake Bay Special Project Contract**

The new Chesapeake Bay Special Project Contract which covers July 1, 2011 until June 30, 2013 has been received. Signatures are required of the District Chairman and the District Treasurer.

Motion to have the Chairman sign the Chesapeake Bay Special Project Contract was made by

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

Discussion: None

- **Workshop Conference Call**

Tammy Bartsch will call when there is a conference call instead of calling to cancel the conference call.

- **Priorities Discussion from the Interim District Manager**

Go to Executive Session with this item.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS: *Zero (0)*

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre	Reviewer
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NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMMENDMENTS: *Zero (0)*

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre	Reviewer

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS REQUESTING REMOVAL: *Thirteen (13)*

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre
Mark Weber	Brecknock	0	160.0	VAO	0.0	0.0
Harry Shaak	Tilden	100 heifers/steer, 84,000 broilers	537.06	VAO	330.2	0.6
Daniel Deturk	Upper Bern	25 dairy cows	37.7	VAO	37.7	0.28
Dean Hartman	Lower Heidelberg	50 beef cow, 50 dairy cows	98	VAO	63.75	0.65
Mark Moser	Washington	180 dairy cows	481	VAO	326	0.78
Warren Hartman	Upper Bern	175 beef steer, 100 swine	337	VAO	119.3	0.35
Leroy Daub	Bethel	83 beef cows	78	VAO	66.7	0.86
Dennis Miller	Perry	25,000 broilers	78.3	VAO	156.1	1.99
Floyd Martin	Marion	110 bred cows, 20 dry cows, 30 heifers, 45 calves	138.0	VAO	210.0	1.51
Dennis Essig	Upper Bern	15 finishing cows, 7 heifers, 18 steer	66.3	VAO	39.7	0.63
Dean Smith	Upper Tulpehocken	310 goats, 20 beef cows	101.0	VAO	51.8	0.51
Victor Miller & Son	Oley/Pike	55 dairy cows	198.0	VAO	93.5	0.47
Prime Agra Corp (Joseph Lenzi)	Heidelberg	50 beef cow/calf, 150 beef finishers	102.4	VAO	199.0	1.94

Motion to remove the Nutrient Management Plans listed above was made by

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

Discussion: Dan Greig is going to work with Stephanie Drzal to put together a proposal for farmers that would allow them to continue with the Nutrient Management program as long as they continue with soil testing as required by the program.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS EXPIRING: *One (1)*

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre
Aaron Martin	Centre	100,000 broilers, 55 dairy cows, 25 calves, 25 heifers	82.0	CAO	342.6	4.2

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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 3rd Party Planner's certification that the plans meet the standards and specifications of the Pennsylvania Field Office Technical Guide for NRCS.”

REPORTS: District Manager and Staff Reports are attached.

COMMENTS:

Brian Boyer talked with Glenn Seidel regarding the letter of resignation received by the District from Rosalynd Orr and Chairman Seidel directed Dan Greig to extend to Rosalynd the Boards since appreciation to her for her hard work and let her know the Board wishes her well.

Steve Miller thanked the staff for all the work on the rain gardens, they look nice.

Rick Hartlieb advised there are a few Pin Oaks that need to be taken down.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was recessed at 2:48 p.m. into an Executive Session.

Directors returned and Chairman Seidel reconvened the meeting at 3:40 p.m. and the following actions were taken:

Motion to extend the Interim District Manager's contract with Dan Greig from August 1, 2011 through October 1, 2011 at a per diem rate of \$340.00

was made by

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

Discussion: None

Motion to hire Dan Greig effective October 2, 2011 as Berks County Conservation District Manager based on the general outline provided was made by

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

Discussion: None

Motion was made to adjourn at 3:50 p.m. by

Larry Kehl seconded by **Piper Sherburne**, motion passed.

Discussion: None

UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS and HOLIDAYS:

August

- Aug. 10, 2011 Workshop Conference Call – 10:00 a.m.
- Aug 11, 2011 Admin Tech / Ag Committee Meeting – 9:00 am.
- Aug. 15 – 16, 2011 BCIU & BCCD Teacher Workshop
- Aug 16, 2011 RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- Aug. 25, 2011 BCTV Appearance
- Aug. 31, 2011 Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

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. 18, 2011 RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- Oct. 20, 2011 Berks County Association of Township Officials Annual Meeting Oley Fairgrounds; for details see Bruce Latshaw, Associate Director.
- 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. 30, 2011 Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.