

Minutes from the Berks County Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting May 25, 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, May 25, 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; T. John Bicksler; Commissioner Christian Leinbach and Brian D. Boyer.

The following Associate Directors were present: Henry Bohn; John Schueller; Ross Stowell; Bruce Latshaw, Berks County Association of Township Officials, Steve Miller, Leonard Good and Jim McCarthy.

The following District Staff was present: Dan Greig, Interim District Manager; Stephanie Drzal, Agriculture Conservation Technician; Elizabeth Scott, Agriculture Conservation Technician; Jeff Overstreet, Agriculture Conservation Technician; Maren Morgan-Tomson, Part-Time Administrative Assistant and Tammy Bartsch, Administrative Assistant.

The following Cooperating Agencies representatives were present: Nick Ramsey, NRCS; Rick Kauffman, Cooperative Extension; Elwood Blake, DEP; Rick Hartlieb, DCNR and Sheila Miller, Ag Coordinator.

Also present were: Robert Maiden, PACD; Richard Weinstein, Public; and Val Lacin, Reading Eagle Newspaper.

Public Comment: None

Introductions:

The following were introduced as new District staff: Dan Greig, Interim District Manager; Elizabeth "Ellie" Scott, Agricultural Conservation Technician; Robert Jeffrey (Jeff) Overstreet, Agricultural Conservation Technician and Maren Morgan-Thomson, Part-Time Administrative Assistant to the Board and meeting attendees.

Action on Minutes of March 26, 2011 meeting -

Motion to accept the March 26, 2011 minutes with the following amendment(s):

- 1) At the April 2011 Board meeting Ross Stowell asked that the E&S Technicians include the municipalities on their Board reports for the project they are reporting on – that request was omitted from last month's minutes.

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An Executive Session was held via a conference call on Tuesday May 3, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. the following took place:

1. Be it resolved that the Berks County Conservation District no longer needs the management services of Joseph Crea.
2. Be it resolved that the Berks County Conservation District Board gave authority to Board members Piper Sherburne, Larry Kehl and Glenn Seidel to form a committee to offer a severance package with the advice and recommendation of the Boards Human Resources advisor and commence a search for an interim manager.
3. Be it resolved that the Berks County Conservation District will contract Dan Greig at the rate of \$300.00 (Three hundred dollars) per diem. The term of the contract consists of 3 (three) to 4 (four) days per week as acting Interim District Manager for a period not to exceed three (3) months. Additional obligations will be to conduct an evaluation of the district and help to acquire a new manager.

Motion was made by
Piper Sherburne, seconded by **Brian Boyer** motion passed.
Discussion: None

Payment of May 2011 bills -

Motion to pay the bills was made by
Mark Wolfskill, seconded by **Brian Boyer**, motion passed.

Discussion: Brian Boyer questioned the bill submitted by Schlouch for the sink hole; his concern is that the sink hole is on County property and the Conservation District is paying the bill.

To Do: Do not pay bill; check with Kate O'Brien to check into the invoice and if need be contact Mary Buerer at Commissioner Leinbach's office to research the invoice.

Commissioner Leinbach would like to see more information provided in financials; the Profit and Loss does not provide the full picture. Ideally a report showing budgeted amount, amount used and difference per month.

Introductions: Robert Maiden, PACD

Correspondence: See Attachments
Direction: Send thank you to S.T.E.M. for plaque

Cooperating Agency Reports

PA DEP – Elwood Blake - See Attachment

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PA DCNR – Rick Hartlieb

- Birdsboro Water Authority has their first Timber Harvest covering a 640 acre area.
- DCNR provided a prize at this year's Envirothon; that was a 20' Sugar Maple donated by Hopewell Nursery. The tree was planted at the winning school.

NRCS – Nick Ramsey

- Completed six conservation plans for over 120 acres.
- Nancy Dusko is returning June 6, 2011.
- In June, NRCS will be sending a letter to the District requesting their attendance at a meeting which will be held on June 29, 2011 before the Board meeting; details will be in the invitation.
- CREP
There are 26 contracts coming out of CREP in September; 2012 over 100 fill come out with over 100 coming out in 2013.
- Rosalynd Orr has been given job approval authority. This authority will allow Rosalynd to go out and execute some work without an NRCS accompanying her.

Direction: Dan Greig is to thank Rosalynd on behalf o the Board.

FSA – No Report

PA Fish & Boat Commission – No Report

PA Game Commission – No Report

Cooperative Extension Update – Rick Kauffman – See Attachments

Berks County Association of Township Officials – No Report

Agricultural Coordinator –Sheila Miller

- Penn Street Farmer's Market opens June 6, 2011.
- Farmers Night at the Reading Phillies is June 6, 2011.
- Farm Tour will be October 22, 2011 in Center, Penn and Bern Townships.
- An Ice Cream social will be held on June 14, 2011 at various County buildings.
- The new Floodplain designations are being reviewed to look at what the impact will be on the farmers.
- Milmont Gateway Scholl has an Aquaponics Display in their lobby.

Agricultural Land Preservation – No Report

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PACD – Robert Maiden

- Robert Maiden has been on the road trying to visit with all Conservation Districts; he is trying to spread the word out about all the Conservation Districts are doing.
- Progress is being made regarding Penn Dot fees. There was a meeting with Penn Dot; a letter is being drafted addressing the meeting. Things are still in the early stages.

Committee Reports

SEPA RC&D – Steve Miller

- Funding has been removed.
- There is machinery that was purchased that in the past was shared between Counties; they are searching for a “home” for the machinery.

D & G R Quality Assurance Board – Piper Sherburne

- There will be a meeting next month.

Motion to approve and pay \$5,339.10 to Richmond Township for their project was made by

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

Discussion: None

Workshop Conference Call – Meeting Cancelled

Admin Tech / Ag Committee – Minutes Attached

Motion to accept job descriptions for Administrative Assistant and Office Administrator was made by

Piper Sherburne, seconded by **Mark Wolfskill** motion passed.

Discussion: None

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

- Change name of Fall 2012 fundraiser because the Taste of Berks is being used by others.

Motion to change wording on fee schedule, Item II, C, 4, the last sentence should read: This includes disturbed acres within the project limits.

Change the fee schedule to reflect the following wording for the Timber Harvest fees; change

“Based on Total Project Acres” to
“Based on Number of Disturbed Acres”

was made by

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

Discussion: None

To Do: Send letter Glatfelter, Tuscarora Hardwoods and Weaber include

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new fee schedule.

Unfinished Business:

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

Carol Lane (Mr. Bashore's Daughter) will be at the home the week of May 23rd and will contact the District. Some of the items she has include pictures (different ceremonies, working arm, the saw mill, celery fields and soil conservation) notes and maps of the farm and a leather brief case with soil conservation information. There are a lot of other items; if someone would meet her at the house she will be willing to show them what she has.

FYI: She has contacted or will be contacting a local Historical Society.

Possibly approach the Historical Society and ask if they will store items along with other things the District or partners in the building may have?

A suggestion was made to research and find out if the Historical Society is guardian of the artifacts, maybe a rotating display could be put in Ag Center and rotate on a time frame acceptable to all parties?

Commissioner Leinbach offered to help in communicating with the Historical Society.

Direction: T. John Bicksler, John Schueller and Dan Greig are to visit the Bashore home and go through the items.

To Do: This topic is to continue as unfinished business for next month's Board meeting.

- ***Impact Fee Legislation***

Brenda Shambaugh contacted Dan Greig and asked that this information be brought to the Board and again and let them know how important it is and would like to know if the Directors and Associate Directors would get involved contacting various legislators.

The impact fee is dedicated funding to Conservation Districts in the amount of \$7.5 million dollars every year for the next fifty (50) years.

Brenda Shambaugh forwarded an email regarding new legislative initiative to secure dedicated funding for the Conservation District Fund. Also included was a form letter which was typed and provided to all Directors; the Directors had the option to sign and mail the letters if they were in support of the fee.

Direction: Send letters to Larry Kehl with note if he has any questions he should contact Glenn Seidel.

Motion to support the Impact Fee was made by
T. John Bicksler, seconded by **Piper Sherburne** motion passed.

Discussion: None

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- **DISC Management Training Proposal Update**

Jennifer Thomson with the Chamber of Commerce was called and advised at this time the DISC Management training will not be needed, but the District wanted to thank her for all her time put in to the proposal and that the District would like to continue communications with the Chamber and strengthen the relationship.

- **Good Shepherd Land Project**

Table until next month; not all questions have been answered.

To Do: Notify Good Shepherd the District is still interested in land.

Follow up with Mary Buerer to get answers from Duane.

New Business:

- **Affiliate Membership(s)**

<i>Affiliate Member</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Tulpehocken Township	\$ 200.00
Borough of Topton	\$ 25.00

- **Directors Filing Cabinet**

There is a filing cabinet in the District office that has been designated for use by the Board of Directors.

- **Unemployment Compensation**

District Unemployment compensation action was appealed.

- **Interim District Manager**

On Tuesday May 3, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. the Board of Directors held a conference call to discuss the hiring of Daniel Greig, as an Interim District Manager.

- **Educational Signage for Stormwater Best Management Practice Grant**

The Board was made aware that the District was applying for a grant to be used for signage; the paperwork for "The Educational Signage for Stormwater Best Management Practice" grant has been received and signature is needed (3 copies) by either the Chair or Vice Chair and witnessed by either the Secretary or Treasurer of the Board.

Motion to sign the paperwork was made by
Brian Boyer, seconded by **T. John Bicksler** motion passed.

Discussion: None

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- **PACD Mini Grant Project Agreement**

Rosalynd Orr applied for and was awarded a \$2,000.00 grant through the PACD Mini-Grant Project. There are two main goals for these funds: 1) Educate about the recent Chapter 102 regulations and to assist in bringing their operation into compliance. A signature is needed by the Chairman of the Board or District Manager to complete paperwork.

Motion to sign paperwork was made by
Brian Boyer, seconded by **Commissioner Leinbach**, motion passed.
 Discussion: None

NUTRIENT PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION: Three (3)

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre	Reviewer
Walter Wise	Marion	150 dairy Cows	140	VAO	172.25	1.23	Drzal
Dennis Ulrich	Bethel	112,000 layers & 24 steers	40.40	CAO	371.54	9.2	Drzal
Michael Martin	Jefferson	83,000 broilers & 6 steers	0	CAO/CAFO/ODOR	189.29	189.29	Orr

Motion was made to acknowledge the three (3) Nutrient Management Plans listed above was made by
Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by **Mark Wolfskill**, motion passed.
 Discussion: None

NUTRIENT PLAN AMMENDMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION: One (1)

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre	Reviewer
Jeff Rohrer	Upper Bern	1175 sows & boars, 225 nursery sows, 4400 nursery pigs, 500 replacement gilts, & 12 steers	0	CAO/CAFO	1313.56	1313.56	Drzal

Motion was made to acknowledge the one (1) Nutrient Management Plan Amendment as listed above was made by
Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by **Mark Wolfskill**, motion passed.
 Discussion: None

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NUTRIENT PLAN REQUESTING REMOVAL FROM PROGRAM: One (1)

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre
William Willits	Ruscombmanor Township	100 heifers, 1 donkey, 2 goats, 30 sheep	64.7	VAO	65.2	1.01

Motion was made to acknowledge the one (1) Nutrient Management Plan Requesting Removal from Program as listed above was made by

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

Discussion: None

B.C.C.D. CONSERVATION PLANS: Four (4)

The following are conservation plans up for acknowledgement:

Name	Municipality	Acres	Planner	Program / Reason
Gerald Martin	Tulpehocken	80.1	Drzal	NMP
Gerald Martin	Tulpehocken	164.6	Drzal	NMP
Gerald Martin	Upper Tulpehocken	150.6	Drzal	NMP
Randall Brubacher	Caernarvon	117.0	Orr	Ches Bay

Motion was made to acknowledge the four (4) B.C.C.D. Conservation Plans as listed above was made by

Mark Wolfskill, seconded by **T. John Bicksler**, motion passed.

Discussion: None

SC-1 FORMS/MULTI AGENCY FORMS: One (1)

Name	OP/OW	COOP	Munic	W/S	Acres	Type/Reason
Samsel, Ron	OO	Multi	Jefferson	Tulpehocken	46.0	BCCD-CP assistance

Motion was made to acknowledge the one (1) SC-1 Form as listed above was made by

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

Discussion: None

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.”

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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:

- Ross Stowell wanted to let the Board members know if they have any questions regarding computers or going independent of the NRCS system, he will be willing to answer them.
- T. John Bicksler asked if there was going to be a picnic this year.
Discussion: Have picnic at Ag Center; everyone brings a covered dish; Brian Boyer will bring grill; picnic will be July 27, 2011 before the Board meeting at 11:30 a.m.
Direction: Put together things and bring to Board meeting.
- Val Lacin with the Reading Eagle Newspaper attended a meeting with BCIDA, during the meeting the Conservation District received a positive comment about how they get the paperwork done quickly and efficiently.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made at 2:35 p.m. to adjourn by
Brian Boyer, seconded by **T. John Bicksler** motion passed.
Discussion: None

UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS and HOLIDAYS:

May

- May 1, 2011 City of Reading Earth Day Event
- May 3, 2011 Capitol Day
- May 5, 2011 High School Envirothon
- May 7, 2011 Tilden Township/BCCD Rain Barrel Workshop
- May 10, 2011 Middle School Envirothon
- May 11, 2011 Workshop Conference Call – 10:00 a.m.
- May 12, 2011 Admin Tech / Ag Committee Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- May 17, 2011 RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- May 18, 2011 Wilson High School STEM Career Fair
- May 25, 2011 Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.
- May 30, 2011 Memorial Day Observed

June

- Jun. 3, 2011 Kernsville Dam Environmental Education Day

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- Jun. 8, 2011 Workshop Conference Call – 10:00 a.m.
- Jun. 9, 2011 Admin Tech / Ag Committee Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- Jun. 21, 2011 RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- Jun. 22, 2011 Stormwater BMP Engineers Workshop – 7:30 a.m.
- Jun. 23, 2011 BCTV Appearance
- Jun. 27 – Jul. 1, 2011 Don Hartman Conservation Leadership School
- Jun. 29, 2011 Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

July

- Jul. 4, 2011 Independence Day Observed
- Jul. 13, 2011 Workshop Conference Call – 10:00 a.m.
- Jul. 14, 2011 Admin Tech / Ag Committee Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- Jul. 19, 2011 RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- Jul. 27, 2011 Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

August

- Aug. 15 – 16, 2011 BCIU & BCCD Teacher Workshop
- Aug. 25, 2011 BCTV Appearance