

Minutes from the Berks County Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting September 28, 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, September 28, 2011 at 1:03 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 Bicksler; Commissioner Christian Leinbach and Brian D. Boyer.

The following Associate Directors were present: Henry Bohn; Ross Stowell; Bruce Latshaw; and Jim McCarthy.

The following District Staff was present: Dan Greig, Interim District Manager; Kate O'Brien, Watershed Specialist/Environmental Educator; and Steph Drzal, Agricultural Conservation Technician.

The following Cooperating Agencies representatives were present: Nicholas Ramsey, NRCS; Kim Fies, Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation

Also present were: Harold Kulp, Christine Williams-Computer Tech Services

Public Comment: None

- Action on Minutes of August 31, 2011 meeting
Motion to accept the August 31, 2011 minutes, with the addition of "T. John Bicksler" to those who were present, was made by
Piper Sherburne, seconded by **T. John Bixler**, motion passed.
Discussion: None
- Payment of July 2011 bills
Motion to pay the bills was made by
Brian Boyer, seconded by **Piper Sherburne**, motion passed.
Discussion: Dan noted that the E&S fee's that have been received year to date was not included in the Board Packet, but should appear in next month's packet.
RMC Committee will be meeting with the Accountant to correct items listed in the Financial Statements.

Correspondence: See Attachments

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Cooperating Agency Reports

PA DEP – No Report

PA DCNR – No Report

NRCS – Nicholas Ramsey

- Out of the thirty farms that have recently come out of the CREP Program, NRCS received ten applications for farms to be reenrolled in CREP.
- Nick thanked the BCCD for being a partner on the PL566 Project in the Tulpehocken Watershed. Discussion was had on how to mark/celebrate the program's accomplishments.
- Two positions will be filled in the near future.

FSA – No Report

Discussion: Dan and Kate are to check with FSA about their reports

PA Fish & Boat Commission – No Report

PA Game Commission – No Report

Cooperative Extension Update – No Report

Berks County Association of Township Officials

- October 20, 2011: Association of Township Officials Banquet

Agricultural Coordinator – No Report

- See handout for Farm Tour in October

Agricultural Land Preservation – Kim Fies

- *The Agricultural Land Preservation Board meeting was cancelled.*
- *Communication between NRCS, BCCD, and Agricultural Land Preservation had been good*
- *Inspections will be done by November*

Committee Reports

SEPA RC&D – No Report

D & G R Quality Assurance Board – Piper Sherburne

- Records show that there is \$8.49 less in D& G R road account from last month; however there have not been any transactions.

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- One of the projects had a blow out due to recent heavy storms.

Workshop Conference Call – Meeting Cancelled

Admin Tech / Ag Committee – Meeting Cancelled

Resource Management Committee – Brian Boyer – Minutes Attached

- RMC gave Dan approval to hire 3rd E&S Candidate.
- Computer RFP: RMC subcommittee narrowed it down to four companies that will be asked to give presentations on October 11 from 1-4PM.
- **Motion** to allow RMC Subcommittee to select the IT company that will service the District after the October 11th presentations was made by, **Brian Boyer**, seconded by **Commissioner Leinbach**, motion passed.
Discussion: None

Unfinished Business:

- ***Curtis Bashore's "Artifacts" Update***
John Schueller and Dan Greig went through the archives and narrowed them down to one box. Organizing the artifacts may be a good assignment for an intern.
- **Pennvest Update**
Kate O'Brien provided clarification to the Lauer/Kurtz application to DEP and Pennvest. Team Ag has been working with the BCCD in scoping out two projects in the Schuylkill River Watershed. The Pennvest Deadline is November 16, 2011 with Team Ag providing the application and engineering assistance.
- **Topton Borough/Toad Creek**
Kate O'Brien sent the narrative to Tony Branco, Borough Manager of Topton.
- **Position Bond**
Dan is to check with Leonard Good about the bond.
- **Legislative Breakfast**
Legislative Breakfast will be on October 14, from 7-8:45AM. Kate is to send information about the Breakfast to the Board of Directors and Associate Directors.
- **Future of the Building**
Commissioner Leinbach reported that records indicate that the Farm Service Agency is occupying the room across the hall. The County's legal Department is working on correcting it.

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New Business:

- **Affiliate Membership(s) – None**

- **Blue Marsh Dam**
 Commissioner Leinbach reported that an Emergency Services Meeting was held between Army Corp of Engineers and Chester, Berks, and Montgomery Counties. Commissioner Leinbach will forward a letter that is being drafted between the three counties and forward it onto Dan. The letter is to then be forwarded to the Board for potential signature.

- **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.

- **Earl N. Mensch**
 Former Board Member Earl N. Mensch passed away.
Motion to make a standard donation to the Memorial Endowment fund in the name of Earl N. Mensch was made by,
Brian Boyer, seconded by **Larry Kehl**, motion passed.
Discussion: None

- **Agricultural Conservation Easement District Administrative Support**
 The District has been recertified to receive \$2700 in 2010. Signature of the Chairman is needed.

- **Agricultural Conservation Technician Interviews**
 Dan reported that he has conducted the interviews. He is prepared to offer three people positions with the District. Two for the Agricultural Technician Positions and one for the third E&S Technician.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS: One (1)

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre	Reviewer
Elvin Martin	Bethel	4,400 hogs, 33 steer	114.1	CAO/CAFO	388.51	3.4	Drzal

Motion to acknowledge the Nutrient Management Plan of Elvin Martin was made by **Commissioner Leinbach**, seconded by **Mark Wolfskill**, motion passed.

Discussion: None

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NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMMENDMENTS: Zero (0)

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

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS EXPIRING: Zero (0)

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS REQUESTING REMOVAL: Two (2)

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre
Paul Zimmerman	Upper Tulpehocken	80 dairy	200.7	VAO	192.7	0.96
Pat Shea	Upper Bern	None, layer operation sold	0	CAO	0	0

Motion to remove Paul Zimmerman and Pat Shea was made by **T. John Bicksler**, seconded by **Piper Sherburne** , 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.”

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.

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COMMENTS:

- Dan handed out a list of District programs and requested that each Director and Associate Director fill them with their rankings and turn them back to him
- Dan reported that Long and Barrel completed the audit. He is to supply the audit to both Committees for review.
- Dan requested that with Tammy Bartsch absence, he is unable to begin the process of becoming a District employee. He requested that his contract be extended until the end of October 2011.

Motion was made to extend Dan Greig's contract until the end of October by, **Brian Boyer**, seconded by **Piper Sherburne**, motion passed.

Discussion: None

- Mark Wolfskill commented that the date of the next Admin/Tech meeting was incorrect.
- Piper Sherburne inquired if the Board can be of assistance during Tammy Bartsch's absence.
- Larry Kehl reported that other Districts are beginning to go independent from being a County Agency. He stated that the District may be able to supply advice to other Districts going through the transition.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 p.m. by **Brian Boyer**, seconded by **T. John Bicksler**, motion passed.

Discussion: None

UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS and HOLIDAYS:

October

- Oct. 12, 2011– Workshop Conference Call - 10:00 a.m.
- Oct. 13, 2011 Admin Tech / Ag Committee – 9:00 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
 - Nov. 10, 2011 Admin Tech / Ag Committee – 9:00 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

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December

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