

Minutes from the Berks County Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting February 23, 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, February 23, 2011 at 1:08 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 E. Kehl, T. John Bicksler; Commissioner Christian Leinbach and Brian D. Boyer.

The following Associate Directors were present: Henry Bohn; John Schueller; Leonard Good; Steve Miller, RC&D; Ross Stowell; Bruce Latshaw, Berks County Association of Township Officials and Maria Pop, Rodale Institute.

The following District Staff was present: Joe Crea, District Manager; Brett Lentz, Agriculture Conservation Technician and Tammy Bartsch, Administrative Assistant.

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

Also present was: Harold Kulp, Region Director PACD

Public Comment: None

Action on Minutes of January 31, 2011-

Motion to accept the minutes was made by **Piper Sherburne**, seconded by **Brian Boyer**, motion passed.

Discussion: None

Payment of February 2011 bills -

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

Discussion: None

Correspondence: See Attachments

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Cooperating Agency Reports

PA DEP – See Attachment

PA DCNR – Rick Hartlieb

- Working on interviewing for vacant forester position. The position should be filled by the beginning of April.
- The partial state quarantine for the Emerald Ash Borer is now for the entire state of Pennsylvania.
- Drilling moratorium has been lifted for Marcellus Shale.

NRCS – Nick Ramsey

- Presented the Cooperative Working Agreement and reviewed the seven page document.
- Six (6) conservation plans for a total of 354 acres were completed.
- Wrapping up the farm bill.
- The allocation for 2011 is up from the beginning of the year; it is approximately 1 ½ million dollars.

FSA – See Attachment

PA Fish & Boat Commission – No Report

PA Game Commission – No Report

Cooperative Extension Update – Rick Kauffman – See Attachments

Berks County Association of Township Officials – Bruce Latshaw

- March 1, 2011 at the Fleetwood Grange is “Meet the Candidate” for the special election which will be held on March 15, 2011.

To Do: Joe Crea is to make arrangements to meet with new senator.

PACD Southeastern Region - Harold Kulp

- The regional meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2011 in Franconia, PA. Let Tammy Bartsch know who will be attending so a check can be drafted.

Agricultural Coordinator – Sheila Miller

- Sheila Miller is working with Jane Meeks and Ag Plastics to collect agricultural plastics and convert to energy.
- Ag Career day is Friday March 4th 2011 at the Ag Center (See Attachment)

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- Commissioner Leinbach thanked Glenn Seidel and Sheila Miller for getting together and discussing Clean and Green concerns.

Agricultural Land Preservation – No Report

Committee Reports

SEPA RC&D – Steve Miller

- The annual meeting will be May 14, 2011 at the Ag Center. Sponsors should arrive at 8:00 a.m., program begins at 9:00 a.m.; topic is going to be Biofuels; it would be good to have a few Directors attend; \$20.00 per person registration fee; fee is waived for the District and BCCD will have staff in attendance.

D & G R Quality Assurance Board – No Meeting

- Account balance is \$35,787.15 and the D&GR committee is preparing to seek a new project.

Workshop Conference Call – Meeting Cancelled

Admin Tech / Ag Committee – Piper Sherburne – Minutes Attached

Motion was made to present the following awards at the annual banquet:
Erosion Control Plan Preparer of the Year – Bob Stewartz / Stackhouse Bensinger, Inc.
Erosion Control Contractor, Developer or Project of the Year Award –
Shiloh Road Relocation

Conservation Service Individual / Organization of the Year Award – Chris Shirey and
Farmer of the Year – Russell Guntz by
Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by **T. John Bicksler**, motion passed.

Discussion: Letters should *not* be sent to “Runners Up” since the District does not have a policy in place for winning an award.

Motion was made to approve the **Nutrient Management Request for Removal from Program Policy** by
T. John Bicksler, seconded by **Brian Boyer**, motion passed.
Discussion: None

Resource Management Committee – Brian Boyer – Minutes Attached

Motion was made for the District to make a \$250.00 donation to the program Trout in the Classroom using scholarship funds by

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Brian Boyer, seconded by **Commissioner Leinbach**, motion passed.
Discussion: None

Motion was made for the District to make a \$500.00 donation in the name of Curtis Bashore using budget line item "Donation" by

Brian Boyer, seconded by **Commissioner Leinbach**, motion passed.
Discussion: None

To Do: Joe Crea is to write a policy regarding donations.

Motion was made to send Pre-Board packets to all Directors and Associate Directors by **Commissioner Leinbach**, seconded by **Brian Boyer**, motion passed.

Discussion: Each Director or Associate Director will advise whether they want the packet mailed or emailed. All documents emailed must be in the .pdf format.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- **Welcome Rodale Institute – Mark Smallwood (Maria Pop) – Associate Director**
- **Internal Posting of Office Administrator position**

Motion was made to take to Admin Tech for review and if approved by this Committee post Office Administrators position by

Brian Boyer, seconded by **T. John Bicksler**, motion passed.
Discussion: None

- **Affiliate Memberships**
 - Boyer Engineering - \$100.00
 - Maxatawny Township - \$25.00
 - Maiden creek Township - \$25.00
- **Grant Agreement – Zartman Stream Restoration**
Signature is required.
- **Grant Agreement – Chesapeake Bay Conservation Plan Initiative**
Signature is required.

Motion was made to have both the Zartman Stream Restoration Grant Agreement and the Chesapeake Bay Conservation Plan Initiative signed by

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

Discussion: None

- **Newspaper Article(s)** – See Attachments
 - Brenda Shambaugh forwarded two articles to Joe Crea. They are titled:
 - ❖ *Berks County Conservation District Gets Grant to Improve Water Quality*
 - ❖ *Berks County Conservation District Can Help Farmers with New Water-Pollution Rules*
- **Public Officials Liability Insurance**
 - Renewal needs signature.

Motion was made to have the renewal signed by **T. John Bicksler**, seconded by **Brian Boyer**, motion passed.

Discussion: None

- **Teacher Workshops for Project Wild**
 - Kate O'Brien put together a proposal last year and it was approved by the District. BCIU has accepted the proposal in the amount of \$750.00.
- **PACD Southeast Region Meeting**
 - March 18, 2011 at Franconia Heritage Restaurant, Franconia, PA.
 - Joe Crea asked that anyone interested please contact Tammy Bartsch at the District.
- **Vehicle #1**
 - Vehicle is at Bob Hoffman's Garage on Rt. 183 South; there is a major coolant leak; both heads leaking; so is the timing cover. Estimate for repair is between \$2,500 and \$3,500.

To Do: Take pictures of vehicle and list it on Ebay or Craigs list "as is" and "pick up" and sell by bid.

Motion was made to advertise the vehicle for sale "as is" and seller will "pick up" by **Commissioner Leinbach** and seconded by **Brian Boyer**, motion passed.

Discussion: Direction from Chairman Seidel, is that Joe Crea and Brian Boyer need to determine selling price. Remove logo before disposing of vehicle.

- **Stormwater Training**
 - Berks County Public Works concern over fee.

To Do: Follow up with Commissioner Leinbach.

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To Do: Joe Crea is to do whatever has to be done to get paid for BCCD to conduct this event.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION: Three (3)

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre	Reviewer
John E. Bicher	Bethel Twp.	19,000 Layers	35.3	CAO	59.85	39.9	Lentz
Martin's Egg Ranch Adam Martin, Jr.	Bethel Twp.	85,000 Layers	84.4	CAO	267.75	3.63	Drzal
Brian Trexler	Albany Twp.	10 Cows, 4 Calves & 8 Steer	82	VAO	19.5	0.25	Keith Lutz Lanc. CCD (Drzal wrote)

Motion was made to acknowledge the following three (3) Nutrient Management Plans:

- 1) John E. Bicher, Martin's Egg Ranch; Adam Martin, Jr. and Brian Trexler by
T. John Bicksler, seconded by **Larry Kehl**, motion passed,
Discussion: None

NUTRIENT PLAN REQUESTING REMOVAL FROM PROGRAM: Zero (0)

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre

PLANS EXPIRING BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING: One (1)

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre
Lloyd S. Brubacker	Bethel Twp.	89,000 Layers	179.0	VAO & CAFO	303.8	1.7

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.

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SC-1 FORMS/MULTI AGENCY FORMS: Twenty-Four (24)

Name	OP/OW	COOP	Munic	W/S	Acres	Type/Reason
Merkel, Neil	OO	Multi	Albany	Maiden Creek	58.00	Ag Pres – Update
Faller, Jamie	OW	Multi	Exeter	Schuylkill	45.00	AP – New Operator
Kocher, Jean and Ernest	OO	Multi	Exeter	Schuylkill	44.5	Ag Pres – Update
Eaton Farms	OO	BCCD	Bern	Tully	85.00	BCCD-Con Plan Assistance
Hottenstein, William	OP	Multi	UpTulp	Tully	62.00	AP – Update
Bitler, David	OO	Multi	Richmond	Maiden		NRCS– Update
Levandowski, John & Paula	OO	Multi	Spring	Tully	42.3	BCCD– Ag Asst.
Hetrick, Daniel & Melanie	OW	Multi	UpTulp	Tully	193.40	AP – Update
Wen-Crest Farms, LLC	OP	Multi	SHeid	C-Bay	12.7	BCCD-ConPlan Asst.
Wen-Crest Farms, LLC	OP	Multi	Bethel	C-Bay	35.6	BCCD-ConPlan Asst.
Wen-Crest Farms, LLC	OP	Multi	Perry	Schuylkill	170.5	BCCD-ConPlan Asst.
Wen-Crest Farms, LLC	OP	Multi	SHeid	C-Bay	56.5	BCCD-ConPlan Asst.
Wen-Crest Farms, LLC	OP	Multi	SHeid	C-Bay	19.7	BCCD-ConPlan Asst.
Loeb, Brenda	OP	Multi	Greenwich	Maiden Creek	47	BCCD-ConPlan Asst.
Batdorf, Joel	OW	Multi	Bern	Tully	38	AP-Update
Berger, Robert	OO	Multi	Upper Bern	Tully		AP-Update
Dietrich, Lynn & Deborah	OO	Multi	Albany	Maiden Creek	112.20	AP – Update
Martin, Norman	OW	Multi	Richmond	Maiden Creek	26.84	AP-Update
Weber, F. Mark	OW	Multi	Brecknock	C-Bay	53.28	AP-Update
Dietrich, Micheal	OP	Multi	Richmond	Maiden Creek	107.8	AP-New Operator
Dietrich, Micheal	OP	Multi	Richmond	Maiden Creek	150.2	AP-New Operator
Dietrich, Micheal	OP	Multi	Richmond	Maiden Creek	115.0	AP-New Operator
Dietrich, Micheal	OP	Multi	Richmond	Maiden Creek	111.5	AP-New Operator

Motion was made to acknowledge Twenty-Four (24) SC-1 forms listed above by, **Commissioner Leinbach**, seconded by **T. John Bicksler**, motion passed.
Discussion: Only SC-1 will be granted per entire operation.

B.C.C.D. CONSERVATION PLANS: Three (3)

Name	Municipality	Acres	Tract	Planner	Program / Reason
C. Eugene Siegrist	Bethel Twp.	99.5	9903	Orr	Ches. Bay
C. Eugene Siegrist	Bethel Twp.	77.6	12027	Rosalynd	Ches. Bay

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Harold Shirk	Tulpehocken Twp.	63.63	368	Drzal	Ag Land pres
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Motion was made to acknowledge the following three (3) BCCD Conservation Plans:

C.Eugene Siegrist (Two {2} Plans) and Harold Shirk by,
Piper Sherburne, seconded by **Commissioner Leinbach**, motion passed,
Discussion: None

“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, Staff (See Attachments)

- Joe Crea presented information pertaining to the ACT funding. Signature required.

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

Comments:

- Elwood Blake advised Joe Pye Weed is very common and displays nice flowers.
- Henry Bohn has District Banquet tickets for sale.
- Bruce Latshaw advised the deadline for all nominating elected officials is March 8, 2011.
- T. John Bicksler is converting his chicken operations to organic.
- Piper Sherburne reminded everyone they are invited to come into the District and review all applications for scholarships between March 1, 2011 and March 4, 2011. Direction was also given to call people about tickets and push to sell them.

To Do: Email information for scholarships to Maria Pop at Rodale Institute.

To Do: Leonard Good asked that an email of the seedling sale brochure be sent to Trout Unlimited at stevfabian@comcast.net.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

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- Apr. 12, 2011 56th Annual Operators Workshop – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Apr. 13, 2011 Workshop Conference Call – 10:00 a.m.
- Apr. 14, 2011 Admin Tech / Ag Committee Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- Apr. 14, 15 & 16, 2010 Annual Seedling Sale
- Apr. 19, 2011 RMC Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- Apr. 27, 2011 D&GR Meeting – 12:00 p.m.
- Apr. 27, 2011 Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.
- 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 Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- May 25, 2011 D&GR Meeting – 12:00 p.m.
- May 25, 2011 Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.
- 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 Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- Jun. 29, 2011 D&GR Meeting – 12:00 p.m.
- Jun. 29, 2011 Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn by,
T. John Bicksler, seconded by **Mark Wolfskill**, motion passed,

Discussion: None

Meeting adjourned at 2:89 p.m.

The next board meeting will be on Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Agricultural Building located at 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Bartsch
Secretary to the Board

Note: An executive session was held prior to the Board meeting to discuss personnel issues.