

Minutes from the Berks County Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting March 28, 2012

Piper Sherburne called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Berks County Conservation District to order on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 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: Piper L. Sherburne, Chairperson; Glenn R. Seidel, Vice-Chairman; Mark A. Wolfskill, Treasurer; Larry E. Kehl; Brian D. Boyer and Commissioner Christian Leinbach.

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

The following District Staff was present: Dan Greig, District Executive; Jeff Overstreet, Agricultural Resource Conservationist and Tammy Bartsch, Office Administrator.

The following Cooperating Agencies representatives were present: Elwood Blake, DEP; Karlyn Haas, NRCS; Rick Hartlieb, DCNR and Mena Hautau, Penn State Extension.

The following were also present: Jeff Whalen, Government Liaison; and Val Laxis, Reading Eagle.

Public Comment: None

Action on Minutes of February 29, 2012 meeting

Motion to accept the February 29, 2012 minutes, was made by **Glenn Seidel**, seconded by **Brian Boyer**, motion passed.

Discussion: None

Payment of March 2012 bills

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

Discussion: None

Staff Presentation: Jeff Overstreet, Urban Resource Conservationist gave a power point presentation of his education, duties and tasks.

Correspondence: See Attached

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Cooperating Agency Reports

PA DEP – Elwood Blake

- Talking Points – see attached

PA DCNR – Rick Hartlieb

- Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Montgomery County
- Traps are being set for the Asian Long Horn Beetle

NRCS – Karlyn Haas

- Spring construction is underway
- Just finished ranking CSP contracts

FSA – No Report

PA Fish & Boat Commission – No Report

PA Game Commission – No Report

Cooperative Extension Update – Mena Hautau

- Cover Crop Walk – see handout

Berks County Association of Township Officials – No Report

Agricultural Coordinator – No Report

Agricultural Land Preservation - No Report

Committee Reports

SEPA RC&D – Dan Greig

- SEPA RC&D Board met March 27, 2012 and voted to keep RC&D intact as a non-profit 501C3 using current staff until December 2013
- RC&D will break into two groups, Southeastern and Northern
- The Board will need to decide how the District is going to proceed by choosing one of the three following options:
 - Partner with Lehigh and Northampton Counties coalition
 - Partner with Southeastern Counties.
 - Just let the RC&D dissolve.

To Do: Dan is to find out the value, benefits and cost and take to Admin Tech and RMC committees.

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D & G R Quality Assurance Board – Piper Sherburne

- Meeting held, project request received from Richmond Township
- **Motion** to approve payment in the amount of \$14,712.50 to Richmond Township to put DSA on Gift Road; ½ mile of road was made by **Brian Boyer**, seconded by **Commissioner Christian Leinbach**, motion passed.
Discussion: None
- Paying of the above project leaves a balance of \$1,441.67 in account.

Workshop Conference Call – Meeting Cancelled

Admin Tech / Ag Committee – Larry Kehl – Minutes Attached

- Banquet Evaluation:
Wording on tickets needs to be precise.
In the future, contact Jan Phillips and Lees Phillips to ask if they would like to participate in the selection of the scholarship recipient.

To Do: Inform the County if the District is not going to handle the West Nile Virus program.

Resource Management Committee – Brian Boyer – Minutes Attached

- **Motion** to provide coverage in the amount of one time's each staff members salary, changes to the amount of coverage will be made yearly when renewing insurance policy was made by **Brian Boyer**, seconded by **Glenn Seidel**, motion passed.
Discussion: None
- **RC&D Annual Appeal**
Due to current situation, do not send check, hold until Board makes decision of which direction the District will go.

Unfinished Business:

- **Model Ag Policy**
Draft of comments was provided in Pre-Board packet; signature is needed on original.
- **Motion** to authorize Chair to sign comments letter was made by **Commissioner Christian Leinbach**, seconded by **Larry Kehl**, motion passed.
Discussion: None

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NEW BUSINESS:

- **PACD**

There was a lengthy discussion pertaining to Nutrient Trading.

To Do: Elwood Blake will look into the possibility of a pilot program.

The District needs to let the County know what they need to do; who would the District have to reach out to and bring the information to the next Board meeting.

- **Issues Forum**

The Commissioner and will be meeting with the Cambridge Group CEO, CFO and Project Manager at the Berkshire Country Club April 27th at 7:30 a.m.; the meeting will be finished at 9:00 a.m.; if interested let Tammy Bartsch know and she will get you registered.

- **Annual District Picnic**

Since there are funds available, call Kauffman's Barbeque and make a reservation for the District picnic on June 27th; Golf at 11am, Lunch at 12pm, Meeting at 1pm.

- **Agricultural Land Preservation Meeting**

Meeting went well; there was a lot of communicating from both agencies. Next Meeting Date April 11th, at 1PM,

To Do: Dan Greig is to talk to Tami Hildebrand about writing a letter of support in requesting that the tobacco fund money continue to be available for the State Farmland Preservation Program.

- **Watershed Roundtable Meeting**

A very small group met to discuss a game plan of what can be done.

There are only 3 active watersheds – Hay Creek, Maiden Creek and Pine Creek. Pine Creek is celebrating 25 years anniversary.

- **Affiliate Membership(s) for 2012**

Name of Affiliate Member	Amount of Membership
Gouglersville Grange #1743	\$25.00
Centerport Borough	\$25.00
Bernville Grange # 1887	\$25.00

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SIGNATURES REQUIRED:

- ***Coldwater Conservation Grant***

The District was awarded a \$6,000.00 grant; a signature of a District Executive is needed.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS: *Zero (0)*

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMMENDMENTS: *Zero (0)*

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS REQUESTING REMOVAL: *Zero (0)*

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS EXPIRING: *Zero (0)*

SC-1 REQUESTS: Two (2)

Name	OP/OW	Coop	Municipality	Acres	Reason
Morgan Dawn LeFay	OP	BCCD	Brecknock	2.6	Ag E/S Plan
Verlin Renner	OP/OW	BCCd	Ruscombmanor	30	Ag E/S Plan

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 Executive and Staff Reports are attached.

COMMENTS:

- Leonard Good would like permission to copy articles from the District Digest; permission was granted.
- Ross Stowell would like more communication about District Activities with Associate Directors. Dan will make sure that any additional activity information is provided to Associate Directors.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made to adjourn at 3:08 p.m. by

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

Discussion: None

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UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS and HOLIDAYS:

May

- May 1, 2012 – High School Envirothon
- May 9, 2012 – Middle School Envirothon
- May 9, 2012 - Workshop Conference Call – 10:00 a.m.
- May 10, 2012 - Admin Tech Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- May 11, 2012 – Twin Valley Environmental Education Day
- May 15, 2012 - RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- May 18, 2012 – Duck Farm Days
- May 29, 2012 – Hamburg School District Environmental Education Day
- May 30, 2012 – Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

June

- Jun. 13, 2012 - Workshop Conference Call – 10:00 a.m.
- Jun. 14, 2012 - Admin Tech Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- Jun. 19, 2012 - RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- Jun. 25 – 29, 2012 – Don Hartman Conservation Leadership School
- Jun. 27, 2012 – Board Meeting – at Kauffman’s Barbeque
11:00 a.m.- Miniature Golf
12:00 p.m. – Lunch
1:00 p.m. - Meeting

July

- Jul. 11, 2012 - Workshop Conference Call – 10:00 a.m.
- Jul. 12, 2012 - Admin Tech Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- Jul. 17, 2012 - RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- Jul. 25, 2012 – Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m. PACD Annual Meeting

August

- Aug. 8, 2012 - Workshop Conference Call – 10:00 a.m.
- Aug. 9, 2012 - Admin Tech Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- Aug. 21, 2012 - RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- Aug. 29, 2012 – Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

September

- Sep. 12, 2012 - Workshop Conference Call – 10:00 a.m.
- Sep. 13, 2012 - Admin Tech Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- Sep. 18, 2012 - RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- Sep. 26, 2012 – Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

October

- Oct. 120, 2012 - Workshop Conference Call – 10:00 a.m.
- Oct. 11, 2012 - Admin Tech Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- Oct. 16, 2012 - RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- Oct. 31, 2012 – Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.