

Minutes from the Berks County Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting March 30, 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, March 30, 2011 at 1:04 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; Ross Stowell; Bruce Latshaw, Berks County Association of Township Officials and Megan Kintzer, 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: Nick Ramsey, NRCS; Mena Hautau, Cooperative Extension; and John Sabaitis, Mark Pisko, PA Fish and Boat Commission.

Also present was: Darrin Youker, Reading Eagle

Public Comment: None

Action on Minutes of February 23, 2011 meeting -

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

Payment of March 2011 bills -

Motion to pay the bills was made by
Brian Boyer, seconded by **Mark Wolfskill**, motion passed.
Discussion: Motion was amended to include an invoice from Goldcamp Tax Facts; the invoice was revised to reflect deductions for staff time spent making changes and/or corrections.

To Do: Joe Crea is to review general reserve and make sure vacation and sick time are not included. Come up with a target amount as well as a range (percentage) as to what needs to be set aside. Do not include any restricted funds in target amount. Take findings to RMC.

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Correspondence: See Attachments

To Do: Joe Crea is to follow up with Nutrient Procurement by sending a letter to them asking that they keep the District on their mailing list and also follow up with PACD.

Motion to accept the resignation of both Associate Director Joseph Sebzda and Associate Director Nick Lopata was made by

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

Discussion: Direction was given to write a letter to both Associate Directors thanking them for their years of service.

To Do: Joe Crea is to check into the two properties; send letter advising District is interested but more information is needed. Take findings to Workshop Conference Call.

Cooperating Agency Reports

PA DEP – See Attachment

PA DCNR

NRCS – **Nick Ramsey**

- Conservation Planner / Technician position was closed Monday March 29, 2011. The position should be filled in approximately one month.

FSA – See Attachment

PA Fish & Boat Commission – **John Sabaitis and Mark Pisko**

- Saturday April 2, 2011 is opening day for Trout fishing in Berks County.
- May 31, 2011 is the last day to apply for Boating Facilities Boating Program funding.

PA Game Commission – No Report

Cooperative Extension Update – **Mena Hautau**

- Cover Crop Walk is April 6, 2011 from 10am – 12pm at Brian Blochs in Bethel Twp.
- June will be when the No Till walk will be held; it will be in the Kutztown area.
- Noll and Elizabeth Schlegel have been recognized as a Master Farmer in Berks County.

Berks County Association of Township Officials – **Bruce Latshaw**

- April 17 through April 20, 2011 is the State Conference for Township Officials in Hershey, PA.

Agricultural Coordinator – No Report

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Agricultural Land Preservation – No Report

Committee Reports

SEPA RC&D – No Report

D & G R Quality Assurance Board – Piper Sherburne

- Committee met today and had nine projects submitted.
- Account balance is \$35,800.85 with \$10,800.00 ear marked for the Bethel Twp. project.
- Potential projects are in Hereford Twp., Richmond Twp. and Upper Tulpehocken Twp.
- Projects will be prioritized and then a project or projects will be selected.

Workshop Conference Call – Meeting Cancelled

Admin Tech / Ag Committee – Larry Kehl – Minutes Attached

To Do: Joe Crea is to write a policy pertaining to Associate Directors attending PACD and other functions or trainings with the only constraints being the budget.

Motion was made to hire a part-time administrative assistant by **Brian Boyer**, seconded by **Larry Kehl**, motion passed.

Discussion: None

Motion was made to approve the Conservation Plan Approval Policy by **Larry Kehl**, seconded by **T. John Bicksler**, motion passed.

Discussion: None

Resource Management Committee – Brian Boyer – Minutes Attached

To Do: Joe Crea is to give Darrin Youker the information for the seedling sale to be published in the Sunday Reading Eagle.

To Do: Hang sign on door at old location directing people to new location for seedling pick up.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- **Affiliate Memberships**
 - County of Berks - \$500.00

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- **Envirothon Sponsors**

Kate O'Brien secured two new sponsors for the 2011 Envirothon:

- Mountz - \$500.00
- Waste Management - \$200.00

- **Director Emeritus**

- Joe Crea is to find out what Director Emeritus means and advise Board.

Motion was made to acknowledge the amended Moleski Nutrient Management plan by, **Piper Sherburne**, seconded by **T. John Bicksler**, motion passed.
Discussion: Larry Kehl abstained from the voting on the motion.

NUTRIENT PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION: Four (4)

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre	Reviewer
Meck Brothers (Zachary & Jeremy Meck)	Tulpehocken & Marion Twp.	150 Cows & 35 Replacements	280	VAO	212.71	0.79	Lentz
Otto Schick	Greenwich Twp. (with land in Albany twp. & Lehigh Co.)	1650 Pigs (Farrow to Finish), 158 Sows & 15 boars	249	CAO	223.01	223.01	Lentz
BAD Farms David Rice	Albany Twp.	105 Cows, 5 Bred Heifers, 15 Steers & 200 Layers	229	VAO	173.95	0.78	Lentz
Nelson Martin	Bethel Twp.	80 Cows, 15 Dry Cows & 60 Replacements	53.5	CAO	142.25	2.82	Orr

Motion to acknowledge the four Nutrient Management plans listed above was made by, **T. John Bicksler**, seconded by **Larry Kehl**, motion passed.
Discussion: None

NUTRIENT PLAN REQUESTING REMOVAL FROM PROGRAM: Eight (8)

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre
Troy Alderfer, Alderfer Farms	Oley Twp.	56,000 Broilers & 28 Dairy Replacement Heifers	290.4	VAO	139.9	0.50
Carl Hollenbach	Upper Tulpehocken Twp.	75 Dairy Cows, 10 Dry Cows, 72 Replacement Heifers	237.9	VAO	164.8	0.79
Clyde Loump	Penn Twp.	55 Dairy Cows, 8 Dry Cows, 60 Replacement Heifers	787	VAO	120.2	0.26
W. Ray Hershey	Bethel Twp.	250 Dairy Cows, 50 Dry Cows, & 190 Replacement Heifers	582.9	VAO	509	1.11
David Swartley	Exter Twp.	8 steers	64.4	VAO	6.8	0.12
Donald Duncan	Heidelberg Twp.	126 Cows, 30 Dry Cows,	355.1	VAO	304.8	0.86

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		140 Replacements & 25 Steers				
David Swartley	Exeter Township	8 Steers	64.4	VAO	6.8	0.12
Larry Gelsing	Heidelberg & Lower Heidelberg Twps.	60 Steers, 20 Cows, 20 Calves, 30 Gestating Sows, 10 Lactating Sows, 3 Boars & 150 Farrow-Finish Hogs	300	VAO	120	0.42
Deb Woolf	Centre Twp.	45 Cows, 10 Heifers, & 5 Calves	51.8	VAO	69.4	1.52

Motion was made to remove the eight farms listed above from the program was made by, **Larry Kehl**, seconded by **Mark Wolfskill**, motion passed.

Discussion: None

PLANS EXPIRING BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING: Two (2)

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre
Dennis Musser	Bethel Twp.	56,000 Broilers, 4 Steers & 8 Sheep	9.25	CAO	95.9	10.4
Joe Jurgielewicz & Son Ltd.	Perry Twp.	4,000 Developer Ducks & 9,000 Layer Ducks	2.8	CAO	66	23.6

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.

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

Name	OP/OW	COOP	Munic	W/S	Acres	Type/Reason
Martin, Michael	OO	Multi	Jefferson	Tulpehocken	50.4	BCCD-Ag. Assistance

B.C.C.D. CONSERVATION PLANS: Fifteen (15)

Name	Municipality	Acres	Tract	Planner	Program / Reason
Rufus H. & Earl Ray Martin	Bethel Twp.	117.8	199	Orr	Ches. Bay
Rufus H Martin	Bethel Twp.	35.6	200	Orr	Ches. Bay
Rufus H Martin	Bethel Twp.	26.5	216	Orr	Ches. Bay
Rufus H Martin	Bethel Twp	50.7	11759	Orr	Ches. Bay
Leroy Daub	Bethel Twp.	5.1	10952	Orr	Ches. Bay
Leroy Daub	Bethel Twp.	6.5	11694	Orr	Ches. Bay
David Rice Jr.	Albany	18.2	1806	Brett	NM

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David Rice Jr.	Albany	21.6	1809	Brett	NM
David Rice Jr.	Albany	22.1	1811	Brett	NM

* Amend the table to show the properties of Rufus H Martin in Tulpehocken Township not Bethel Township.

Motion was made to acknowledge the above conservation plans by,
Piper Sherburne, seconded by **T. John Bicksler**, motion passed.
 Discussion: None

“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)

Comments:

- Joe Crea thanked Elwood Blake and John Schueller for their assistance in interviewing candidates for the West Nile Virus Technician position.
- Henry Bohn advised the Berks County Legislative Banquet is April 29, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Virginville Grante Hall; tickets are \$14.00.
- Megan Kintzer let everyone know Rodale is holding their Cold Crop sale on April 8th and 9th; workshops will available for those interested.
- Glenn Seidel and Joe Crea will be meeting with the new PACD director sometime in mid April

UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS and HOLIDAYS:

April

- Apr. 12, 2011 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, 2011 Annual Seedling Sale
- Apr. 19, 2011 RMC Committee Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
- Apr. 27, 2011 Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

May

- 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 25, 2011 Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

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- May 30, 2011 Memorial Day Observed

June

- 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. 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.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn by,
T. John Bicksler, seconded by **Piper Sherburne**, motion passed,
Discussion: None

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

The next board meeting will be on Wednesday, April 27, 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 immediately following the Board meeting to discuss personnel issues.