

Minutes from the Berks County Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting May 30, 2012

Piper Sherburne called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Berks County Conservation District to order on Wednesday, May 30, 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, T. John Bicksler, Commissioner Christian Leinbach and Brian D. Boyer.

The following Associate Directors were present: Bruce Latshaw, John Schueller, Ross Stowell, Leonard Good and Jim McCarthy.

The following District Staff was present: Dan Greig, District Executive; Kate O'Brien, Watershed Specialist and Environmental Educator, Jeff Overstreet, Agricultural Resource Conservationist; Christine Esterline, Agricultural Resource Conservationist; Bryan Withiam, Agricultural Resource Conservationist; Kyle Rezak, Intern and Tammy Bartsch, Office Administrator.

The following Cooperating Agencies representatives were present: Nick Ramsey, NRCS.

The following were also present: Jeff Whalen, Government Liaison; Kim Murphy, Berks County Conservancy; Daniel Naylor, Department of Agriculture Eastern Region Director and Val Lacin, Reading Eagle.

Public Comment: None

Action on Minutes of April 25, 2012 meeting

- ❖ **Motion** to accept the April 25, 2012 minutes, was made by Brian Boyer, seconded by Glenn Seidel, motion passed.

Payment of May 2012 bills

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

Presentation: Kim Murphy, Berks County Conservancy

Correspondence: See Attached

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Cooperating Agency Reports

PA DEP – Elwod Blake

- Talking Points – See Attached

PA DCNR - No Report

NRCS – Nick Ramsey

- Currently over \$1,000,000 in contracts for approximately 25 contracts.
- Received 7 applications for Maiden Creek Special EQUIP funding.
- Obligated 6 CSP contracts for approximately \$90,000.
- Received request for 25 of 106 potential CREP applications.

FSA – See Attached

PA Fish & Boat Commission – No Report

PA Game Commission – No Report

Cooperative Extension Update – No Report

Berks County Association of Township Officials – Bruce Latshaw

- Working on having more break-out sessions at next year's convention.

Agricultural Coordinator – No Report

Agricultural Land Preservation - No Report

Committee Reports

SEPA RC&D

D & G R Quality Assurance Board – Piper Sherburne

- Still looking for a quarry to produce DSA for projects.

Workshop Conference Call – Meeting Cancelled

Admin Tech / Ag Committee – Glenn Seidel – Minutes Attached

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Resource Management Committee – Brian Boyer – Minutes Attached

- **Agriculture Fee Schedule**

To Do: Dan Greig is to get a copy of the Lancaster County Conservation Fee Schedule and review to see if it would be feasible for the BCCD to put an Ag Fee schedule in place.

- **MS4** – There may be a need to have the County or the Conservation District become the “bank” for the MS4 committee; as things proceed Brian Boyer will keep the Board apprised.

Unfinished Business:

- **Nutrient Mgt. Credit Program**

The Conservation District has asked DEP Representative Jeff Whalen to set up an informational meeting with the District and Kelly Heffner, DEP Deputy Secretary of Water Management.

- **District Annual Picnic – Wednesday, June 27, 2012 – Kauffman’s in Bethel PA**

If you are interested in attending the picnic or playing miniature golf and have not signed up, please sign-up no later than May 30, 2012.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **PACD**

- 65th PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference is July 9-11, 2012 – Scranton, PA
- By-law Changes

❖ **Motion** to respond to PACD based on concerns that while we support the concept of uniformity we need to protect the right of Conservation Districts while following the intent of DEP; we need to have the ability to reflect or meet the needs of the community was made by Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by T. John Bicksler, motion passed.

❖ **Motion** to object to Article VIII Region Directors, Section 1. Election of Region Directors was made by Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Brian Boyer, motion passed.

- ***B.A.R.N. Night at the Reading Phillies***

The District has tickets if anyone would like to attend the game.

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- **PENNVEST**

- ❖ **Motion** to approve the addendum to the contract between the Conservation District and Blakinger, Byler & Thomas, P.C. Attorneys at Law was made by **Commissioner Leinbach**, seconded by **Glenn Seidel**, motion **passed**.

- Progress during the PENNVEST process will be posted on the District website.

- **Staff Update**

- Kevin Witmier has been working with Jen from DEP to get the WNV program up and running.
- Christine Esterline and Bryan Withiam are the two new Agricultural Resource Conservationists.
- Josh Seidel, student at Slippery Rock University and Kyle Rezak, student at University of Pittsburgh are interns working closely with Kate O'Brien coordinating their projects and program goals.

- **Agricultural Land Preservation Funding**

- ❖ **Motion** to send letter written on behalf of the BCCD Board of Directors supporting the continued use of the cigarette tax as permanent funding for the Agricultural Land Preservation Program was made by **Glenn Seidel**, seconded by **Mark Wolfskill**, motion **passed**.

- **Business Cards for Directors**

If Directors are interested in having BCCD business cards, contact Tammy Bartsch.

- **Affiliate Membership(s) for 2012** – Zero for the Month of May

SIGNATURES REQUIRED:

- **MOU**

Birdsboro Borough submitted their MOU, a signature of the Chair is required.

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- **Chesapeake Bay Technician Grant**

The contract, in the amount of \$57,000.00, effective July 1, 2012 until June 30, 2013 requires a signature of the Chair and Treasurer.

- ❖ **Motion** to sign the Ches Bay Technician Contract was made by **Brian Boyer**, seconded by **Commissioner Leinbach**, motion passed.

- **Grant for BMP Trail**

- ❖ **Motion** to sign the grant for signage, kiosk and other items for the BMP Trail was made by **Brian Boyer**, seconded by **Commissioner Leinbach**, motion passed.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS: *Three (3)*

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre	Reviewer
Nathan Zimmerman	Maxatawny	103,600 pullets, 70 steers	45.8	CAO	158.17	3.45	Drzal
Joe Jurgielewicz & Son Neilson Farm	Perry	4,000 developer ducks, 9,000 layers	0.00	CAO/ CAFO	75.00	75.00	Drzal
Joe Jurgielewicz & Son Bethel/Lynn Farm	Bethel	22,500 ducks	0.00	CAO/ CAFO	73.52	73.25	Drzal

- ❖ **Motion** to acknowledge the Nutrient Management Plans for Nathan Zimmerman, Joe Jurgielewicz & Son/Nielson Farm and Joe Jurgielewicz & Son Bethel/Lynn Farm was made by **Glenn Seidel**, seconded by **Commissioner Leinbach**, motion passed.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS REQUESTING REMOVAL: *Four (4)*

Name	Municipality	Animal Numbers	Acres	Plan Type	AEU	AEU/Acre
Earl Hafer	Amity	185 milking cows, 30 dry cows, 200 heifers, 8 bulls	538.0	VAO	419.00	0.79
Trevor Cammauf	Centre	45 milking cows, 5 dry cows, 10 heifers	99.9	VAO	72.50	0.73
Lena Schaeffer	Upper Tulpehocken	150 does & bucks, 105 kids	45.0	VAO	24.33	0.57
William Leshner (Way-Har Farm)	Upper Tulpehocken	130 milking cows, 30 dry cows, 30 breeding heifers, 30 bred heifers, 90 calves	390.6	VAO	262.00	0.67

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- ❖ **Motion** to acknowledge the Removal of Nutrient Management Plans for Earl Hafer, Trevor Cammauf, Lena Shaeffer and William Leshar (Way-Har Farms) was made by **Glenn Seidel**, seconded by **Commissioner Leinbach**, motion **passed**.
Discussion: More information is needed, from staff, when submitting plans for removal from program.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS EXPIRING: Zero (0)

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMMENDMENTS: Zero (0)

SC-1 REQUESTS: Zero (0)

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:

- Bruce Latshaw, October 18, 2012 is the Township Officials Meeting at the Oley Fairgrounds, additional information to follow at a later date.
- Commissioner Leinbach, June 2, 2012 is Hook & Ladder Pig Roast at St. Benedicts on Rt. 10 in conjunction with Exeter, Gibraltar and Geigertown Fire Companies.

ADJOURNMENT:

- ❖ **Motion** to adjourn at 3:19 p.m. was made by **Glenn Seidel**, seconded by **Mark Wolfskill**, motion **passed**.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS and HOLIDAYS:

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.*