

Minutes from the Berks County Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting October 26, 2011

Vice Chairman Piper Sherburne 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: Piper L. Sherburne, Vice-Chairman; Mark A. Wolfskill, Treasurer; T. John Bicksler; Commissioner Christian Leinbach and Brian D. Boyer.

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

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; Elwood Blake, DEP; Sheila Miller, Agriculture Coordinator and Nancy Bosold, Penn State Extension.

The following were also present: Jeff Whalen, Government Liaison and Val Lacin, Reading Eagle

Public Comment: None

- Action on Minutes of September 28, 2011 meeting
Motion to accept the September 28, 2011 minutes, was made by **Brian Boyer**, seconded by **T. John Bixler**, motion passed.
Discussion: None
- Financials
Brian Boyer questioned Grants Accrual vs. Cash; the District is on an accrual.
- Payment of October 2011 bills
Motion to pay the bills was made by **Mark Wolfskill**, seconded by **Brian Boyer**, 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 – Elwood Blake

- Environment Education grant is out
- Chesapeake Bay outreach and WIP
- Jim Spontak retiring

PA DCNR – No Report

NRCS – Nicholas Ramsey

- Ranking right now
- No Conservation plans
- Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania is fixed
- 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 – See Attached

PA Fish & Boat Commission – No Report

PA Game Commission – No Report

Cooperative Extension Update – Nancy Bosold

- Cover Crop Walk
- Crops Conference
- Green Industry Education Program
- Reorganization

Berks County Association of Township Officials – Bruce Latshaw

- Annual Banquet was held.
- Elected rep. for one year.
- Get in contact with John Kramer.

Agricultural Coordinator – Sheila Miller

- Barn Tour
- Soil Monoliths are on display in lobby; they are on loan from FSA
- B.A.R.N. meeting is November 17th at 9:00 a.m.

Agricultural Land Preservation – No Report

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Committee Reports

SEPA RC&D – No Report

D & G R Quality Assurance Board – Piper Sherburne

- \$20,065.20 in D&GR account.

Workshop Conference Call – Meeting Cancelled

Admin Tech / Ag Committee – Meeting Cancelled

Resource Management Committee – Brian Boyer – Minutes Attached

- Computer RFP: RMC subcommittee selected Wyomissing Data from all RFP's submitted.
- Seedling Sale
- Audit
Motion to accept audit was made by Brian Boyer, seconded by Christian Leinbach, motion passed, Discussion" None
- Switching auditors too much sends a bad message to State.

Unfinished Business:

- **Topton Borough/Toad Creek**
Send Leonard Good the narrative.
- **Position Bond**
The Rhode agency (our insurance agent) received the following questions/direction from the bonding company:
 - 1) Reasonable explanation on why they want 100% coverage.
 - 2) Detailed explanation on internal controls, how the money flows in and out of the organization, what are the procedures.The District will provide the necessary information and keep the Board apprised of the progress of the bond.

New Business:

- **Affiliate Membership(s) – None**

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SIGNATURES NEEDED:

- **DEP Grant Management Coastal Zone Management Grant Program Agreement**
Signature is needed by Chairman and Treasurer.
Motion to sign the Coast Zone Agreement, was made by **Brian Boyer**, seconded by **T. John Bixler**, motion passed.
Discussion: None
- **PENNVEST Update**
Signature of the Chairman is needed for two **Resolutions to Apply** and two **Letters of Responsibility**.
Motion to sign two Resolutions to Apply and two Letters of Responsibility was made by **Brian Boyer**, seconded by **T. John Bicksler**, motion passed.
Discussion: None
- **MOU's**
Revised MOU's were received and need the Chairman's signature.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS: One (2)

| Name | Municipality | Animal Numbers | Acres | Plan Type | AEU | AEU/Acre | Reviewer |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------|-------|----------|----------|
| Aaron Martin | Centre | 124,000 Broilers, 55 Dairy Cows | 220.1 | VAO/C AFO | 342.6 | 1.56 | Drzal |
| Carl Hoover | Marion | 100 Dairy, 20 Dry, 100 Heifers | 115 | VAO | 136.5 | 1.27 | Drzal |

Motion to acknowledge the Nutrient Management Plans of both Aaron Martin and Carl Hoover was made by **Brian Boyer**, seconded by **T. John Bicksler**, motion passed.
Discussion: None

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 |
|------|--------------|----------------|-------|-----------|-----|----------|
|------|--------------|----------------|-------|-----------|-----|----------|

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NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS REQUESTING REMOVAL: Two (2)

| Name | Municipality | Animal Numbers | Acres | Plan Type | AEU | AEU/Acre |
|-----------------------|--------------|--|-------|-----------|-------|----------|
| Dennis and Dave Stump | Penn | 122 Milking Cows | 488.8 | VAO | 347.3 | 0.73 |
| Elam Hoover | Ontelaunee | 715 Gestating Sows, 85 Sows and Litter, 900 Piglets (15-45), 900 Piglets (45-60) | 340.6 | VAO | 400.7 | 1.26 |

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.

COMMENTS: Willow Creek Trout Unlimited Restoration

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made to adjourn at 2:05 p.m. by **Christian Leinbach**, seconded by **T. John Bicksler**, motion passed.

Discussion: None

UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS and HOLIDAYS:

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.