

**Berkshire Conservation District
Wednesday, November 3, 2021
Meeting Minutes 6:50pm**

Call-in number 1(646) 558-8656. Meeting ID: 505 943 8770# Passcode: 12345

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5059438770?pwd=WmVFNXBzaTR3RVlXVTNqRnR5Sng0Zz09>

1. Call to order at 6:50pm and determination of quorum.
Present: Supervisors: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), David Ellis (Treasurer), Donna Kittredge (Secretary), Ned Kirchner
Program Administrator: Cynthia Grippaldi
NRCS Representative: Morgan McKee
2. Public Comment Period
No members of the public were present.
3. NRCS Reporting and Comments
Morgan touched on funding received and projects planned. The high tunnel program is still active. There was discussion about a question we received from a homeowner looking for native plants for the compacted clay soil in her horse pasture. Some suggestions were discussed: plant white clover, limit the number of horses. Ron suggested that the soil should first be improved through growing plants that break up hard pan, such as mustard, sorghum or Sudan grass, after which native plants can be added.
4. Secretary's Report – Submitted by Donna Kittredge
Review and approval of October 6, 2021 Monthly Meeting Minutes. Ron moved to accept the minutes, second by Ned. All in favor.
5. Treasurer's Report – Submitted by David Ellis
Review and approval of October Treasurer's Report. See the October 2021 Treasurer's Report. Ned moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, second by Ron. All in favor.
- A. District Supervisors
We agreed to remove the topic of 'additional supervisor for building access' from the agenda for the time being.
6. Program Status
 - A. No-Till Program —
 - Cynthia got in touch with Esch who admitted the No-till rim is a manufacturing defect. They will comp us for two new heavy duty rims and she asked for one tire to be comped, as well. We will need to pay shipping. Presently, with the saturated soil, not much can be accomplished with the No-till.
 - We are actively working on the farm plate for towing the No-till. A farm in Cheshire has an agreement stating that the Implement cannot be towed faster than 30 mph. Adam has asked Mike to be more accountable in being transparent and that this

program is a state funded program. Adam spoke with Tom Anderson who discussed possibly retooling some of our funds to get paid consultants to come aboard to rework our fiscal outlook for the next 5 years and identify priorities. We need to deliberate about the future of the No-till and schedule a separate meeting to do so. Ned suggested hiring the same or another consultant for a business plan and use that plan as our basis for the next round of funding.

- We received applications for the Pollinator Plant Sale Coordinator position.
- Adam and Cynthia have made Mike the caretaker and not program manager. We are responsible for holding him accountable.

Next month action items: Follow up on insurance and get the new rims. Set up a Special Meeting to discuss the No-till issues.

B. Nutrient Management Program

- Cynthia sent letters to golf courses, con coms, and 80 farmers in Berkshire county describing the regulations. The information is now out there and they know how to reach us. Cynthia feels like it's time to move forward. Remove this item from the December agenda.

C. Native Plant Pollinator Grant Program

- We have two applicants and we need to break into a Special Meeting format to deliberate the resumes. Adam asked us for questions for the applicants. We need to establish goals and frameworks, pay scheme, etc.

Next month action item: Set up a Special Meeting to discuss the applicants. With the NRCS office still in chaos, Cynthia asked for ideas on meeting venues to discuss the applicants.

7. Program Administrator Update

- Cynthia has been focusing on Mike and the No-till and planning for 2022.
- She is getting ready to submit the October invoice.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Comments and Announcements

There were no comments or announcements.

10. Adjournment

Ron moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm, second by Ned. All in favor.

