

Berkshire Conservation District Monthly Meeting  
Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 5:30 PM  
Remote Meeting  
Add new number: Call-in number is 1(646) 876-9923. Meeting ID 132436088 #

### **Minutes from August 6, 2020 Meeting**

1. Call to Order at 5:38pm, and Determination of Quorum

Present:

Supervisors: Adam Galambos, Ron Kujawski, David Ellis, Donna Kittredge, Ned Kirschner

Program Administrator: Cynthia Grippaldi

NRCS Representative: Jacob Rathbun

The date of this meeting was originally scheduled for Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> but was moved to Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup> due to a tropical storm on Tuesday that caused several power outages.

2. Public Comment Period

Adam checked the waiting room and no members of the public were present.

3. NRCS Report/Comments

Jacob Rathbun took Gary's place and reported that NRCS has currently used all their funding for this fiscal year and did a total of 41 projects in Berkshire county such as soil health, water quality, livestock concerns and more. They got funding for a conservation stewardship program from the state in the sum of \$500,000. They are functioning with limited staff and are in Phase 2 of 4 which allows them to have 2 people in the office at a time.

4. Secretary's Report — Submitted by Donna Kittredge

- Ron motioned to approve the July 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes, David second. All in favor but Ned who abstained as he was not present for the meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report — Submitted by David Ellis

See Treasurer's Report for June, 2020 numbers. Cynthia will now submit bills monthly as the state was late reimbursing for June. Ned suggested adding a line item for Bills to be Paid or Expenses to be Acknowledged for large items such as insurance renewals. Expense Payment Approval will be discussed further during September 1 meeting under Treasurer's Report.

- Ned motioned to approve the June Treasurer's Report, Ron second. All in favor.

- We are tabling the July Treasurer's Report until the September 1 meeting as everyone did not have a chance to review it.

6. District Supervisors

- We continued the discussion regarding the need for one of the supervisors to have access to the building. Adam asked Ned for his input about this as it's a heavy ask for a supervisor to go through the lengthy security check process. Ned is concerned that if Cynthia is out of town, someone should have access to the building. Conversation to continue.
- We do not have anymore leads from BEAT advertising for supervisors.

## 7. Program Status

- No-till updates for fiscal 2020: Cynthia reached out to Mike several times to get changes for the paperwork and he's hard to reach. He's been depositing the checks when No-till is rented. We had six individuals rent it. Ned suggested adding how many people and how many acres to the update and to add the number of acres that were covered. Ron said Hampden/Hampshire is thinking of getting their own No-till. Mike said he would drive the machine wherever it's needed.
- Nutrient management: Cynthia has had a few conversations with Gary about the second year of Nutrient Management and outreach and education is a big part of this grant for the second year. Ned said we need to get info to the small farmer and homeowner that there are rules and regs they need to follow. Adam suggested we get a few folks from different sectors to produce content for our website. Jacob said a lot of the big farms get tested by fertilizer companies that sell the fertilizer to them. He doesn't think the small farmers/homeowners are being reached.
- Pollinator Grant: We got a press release from The Berkshire Eagle for it and we got one volunteer from it. We have 4 volunteers (including Donna) so far. The director of the Hinsdale library is interested in having a pollinator garden as soon as the roof repairs are done. Amy Pulley from Wing and a Prayer nursery will sell us plugs for very little if we buy them at end of this season (September). We have until June 2021 to use the money in the grant. Cynthia will speak with the town administrator about putting a pollinator garden around the Town Hall. There's a town beautification committee Cynthia may reach out to for maintenance. Ned suggested taking lots of pictures of the process. Adam asked if we have any t-shirts with the BCD logo and presently, we do not. It is something to think about.

## 8. Program Administrator Update

- Housatonic Vally Association won't know about their grant till the end of December. Cynthia updated the BCD programs website and added the pollinator press release. She's prepping another monthly reimbursement and send it off. Our security package is good for two years.

## 9. New Business

### The BCD Work Plan:

- Adam presented his proposed timeline for further refining the work plan. For this meeting, he was looking for comments regarding suggested changes, deletions or additions to the Work Plan as it stands. He also wanted to acknowledge that the current document is not structured logically.
- Ron said that first, we should change the document date from 2019 to 2021. Next, fill two supervisor opening and associates. Adam mentioned we should continue to advertise and utilize some of our partners like Berkshire Grown in order to field any inquiries as far as involvement.
- Ron liked the simplified BCD Mission Statement Donna proposed. He thought it was concise and to the point. Cynthia suggested that because of COVID, we remove 'hands on assistance' from the subtext and where it says 'educational seminars' we should say educational outreach. Adam mentioned we need to acknowledge we are providing a public service that's governed by NRCS and USDA and see if there's any input from them. BCD will not provide financial assistance. Donna will incorporate the comments into a second draft to be discussed during the September meeting. Ned suggested looking into the Mission Statement from MACD. Also, look at Worcester as they are fairly active.
- Ned suggested adding an agenda item for next month asking if we want to have a tree/seedling sale next spring and if we are ready to make that commitment. Adam said that's where the

website can really help us in terms of ordering. Ned said Worcester had a successful tree sale this spring and will have a bulb sale this fall.

- It was agreed that the education outreach section is much too long. Until we get through COVID we can't do anything within the classroom.
- Adam mentioned the Partnerships section is dated. He would like it to be more refined as in what's the end result for us?
- Ron suggested looking back over each fiscal year to ask "did it work?"
- Adam would like an in-depth discussion about scholarships.
- Adam will take all the notes and incorporate the suggested changes for our next meeting.
- Cynthia wanted us to think about our Annual Meeting which is typically held in November— what form should that take as it won't be an in-person event. Add it to the agenda for discussion.

#### 10. Comments and Announcements

- There were no comments or announcements.

#### 11. Motion to adjourn at 7:04pm by Ned , second by David, all in favor.