

Berkshire Conservation District Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 5:00 PM
Remote Meeting
Call-in number 1(646) 558-8656. Meeting ID: 505 943 8770 #

Minutes from Wednesday, February 3, 2021

1. Call to order at 5:02pm and Determination of Quorum
Present: Supervisors: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), David Ellis (Treasurer), Donna Kittredge (Secretary), Ned Kirschner
Program Administrator: Cynthia Grippaldi
NRCS Representative: Gary Blazejewski
2. Public Comment Period
No members of the public were present.
3. NRCS Reporting/Comments from Gary Blazejewski
-Gary reported that Jamie Pottern of American Farmland Trust approached him saying they have some funds that a donor left to be spent in Berkshire county. She's scoping out agencies that might be niches to fund. Gary will get Cynthia in touch with Jamie. Jamie will be invited to attend our monthly meeting in March
4. Secretary's Report – Submitted by Donna Kittredge
- Review and approval of January 6, 2021 minutes. Motion to accept by Ron, second by Ned. All in favor.
5. Treasurer's Report – Submitted by David Ellis
- See January 2021 Treasurer's Report. We're still waiting for November reimbursement. Cynthia submitted December on January 13. Three big insurance bills will come due in May and David suggested he and Cynthia work to find a new carrier. Donna motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, second by Ned. All in favor.
6. District Supervisors
- Update on application process from Ned regarding BCD supervisor to have access to building. Still waiting on fingerprints. No new updates.
- Adam is talking with people in his circles about possibilities for supervisor roles.
7. Program Status
No-Till update
- (FY 2020) David and Cynthia met at the office a couple of weeks ago with Mike. She asked Mike if he would write up a simple manual on the No-Till. Mike still needs to bill us for his caretaker services. Adam asked if our certificate of insurance is valid. Adam is working on a form which will be available on the BCD site and will include a rental agreement with terms and an input form which allows the person to upload the certificate of insurance form. Mike assured Cynthia that he is still interested in managing the No-till rentals. Ned suggested we find a qualified candidate who could assist Mike when he gets busy or can take over in the event Mike needs time away.

David suggested we ask Mike if he knows of someone who could assist. Does our liability insurance cover Mike if something were to happen to him? Cynthia reached out to everyone who rented the No-till in 2020 to generate interest for 2021. Adam created an ad for No-till and it's up on Facebook. He set \$250 for facebook and \$250 for the Google ad. Cynthia checked other districts and some charge \$150/day rental fee. She suggested we might bump up our rental fee.

Nutrient Management update

- S.T.A.R. Program — Cynthia sent the S.T.A.R. program info out to last year's No-till renters asking if they would be interested in the program. Gary said he can put together some info on soil testing if Cynthia needs to put together a brochure.
- **Pollinator Grant update** — plants are heeled in for the winter and will be planted in spring 2021. Ron suggested that if we get information about local grants out to local town committees.
- **HVA** — Allison Dixon said they went for a 319 grant last year that they didn't receive. She did get good feedback and asked if we were interested in joining them. Heavy lifting would be done by them. They will submit their grant application in June. Ned asked if there are any golf courses that we might consider involving. HVA does stream monitoring and can identify hot spots.

8. Program Administrator Update

- Adam, Donna and Cynthia met with Kathryn Zichelle Sullivan on Friday, January 29. Kathryn runs the WCCD annual Spring Seedling Sale.
- Donna and Cynthia met with Tamar, owner of Sitka Creations on Monday, February 1 to talk about creating an e-commerce site for BCD. She helped set up WCCD's website for their spring plant sale. Tamar provided a quote and timeline for proposed services.
- Cynthia went to US Fish & Wildlife Services in Hadley for the next step in getting USDA internet.

9. New Business

- NACD Virtual Annual meeting started this week with administrative meetings. The meetings for next week look appropriate for District supervisors.
- S.T.A.R. meeting was very informative and detailed. Ron asked if the program is too large for Berkshire county and the general consensus was yes.
- Plant sale — we have yet to decide if the effort required to produce a Fall Plant/Bulb Sale is worth it. Discussion to be continued.
- UMass Extension and Mount Grace Regional Conservation Trust grant — information from Michael Leff encouraging land owners to plan the future of their land. Rolling deadline. Adam will look into it.
- We might be seeing some \$2 debit transactions for our facebook ad.
- Ned suggested we advertise our Annual Meeting which needs to be 10 days prior to the meeting. At that meeting, we will vote for supervisors and present a brief on what BCD has accomplished. We will discuss our terms and officers' roles. Ron will be the nominating committee. Adam will talk about the strategic plan.

10. Comments and Announcements

- There were no comments or announcements

11. Adjournment

12. Motion to adjourn by Ron at 6:45pm, second by David. All in favor.