

Berkshire Conservation District
Agenda for Wednesday, February 1, 2023
Supervisor Meeting

Starting at 4:00 pm

1. Call to order and Determination of Quorum
Ron called the meeting to order at 4:03pm. There was a quorum.
2. Present: Supervisors: Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), David Ellis (Treasurer), Donna Kittredge (Secretary), Dottie Lou Kratt (Plant Sale Coordinator), Sylvia Muniz-Gaya (NRCS)
Program Administrator: Cynthia Grippaldi
3. Public Comment Period
No members of the public were present.
4. Report from NRCS Representative
Sylvia shared the NRCS 2023 Applications information thus far. David asked Sylvia if she knows how many acres are used for hay production and small vegetable growing in Berkshire county. She will get back to us.
5. Secretary's Report – Submitted by Donna Kittredge
David made a motion to approve the January 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ron. All in favor.
6. Treasurer's Report – Submitted by David Ellis
See the January 2023 Treasurer's Report. Donna made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ron. All in favor.
7. Program Status/Actions
 1. FY23 Basic and Innovative Proposal - Regenerative Farming Best Practices Initiative
 2. HSAP No-Till Program Improvement Proposal update
 3. FY22 Pollinator program – once the weather warms up, we will work on getting Armory signage, pollinator-friendly communities update — NOFA Mass put together an evening to discuss pollinators. Over 60 people attended.
8. New Business/Actions
 1. Finalize job description for Healthy Soils Conservationist/No-Till Coordinator
We added the hourly fee and total dollar amount to the description for the part-time position. David suggested we reach out to Meghan to talk to Mathew Karas who has been hired by Hampden/Hampshire CD and works approximately 35 to see if his skill set might match our needs for this position. Cynthia will contact Meghan.
 2. Joint meeting with HHCD Feb 21. What is our role at this Zoom meeting?
It will depend on how receptive they are with us partnering with Mathew and how do we share equipment to make this program work
 3. Rental/Hold Harmless Agreement update from HHCD

Cynthia has asked Meghan about their insurance.

4. Fall 2023 Plant Sale
 - We chose Labor Day weekend, Saturday, September 2nd with an additional pick-up day of Sunday, September 3rd from 10am to 2pm.
 - Updates from Lou — she has contacted Amy in regards to ordering perennials. She contacted NE Wetlands and they are on board. She has started a spreadsheet with new species and pricing. She asked if we should have fruit trees/shrubs.
5. Plant Sale Spring 2024 Discussion
 - It's a struggle to have spring ephemerals ready in time
 - There is a lot of competition in spring with other plant sales (BBG).
 - The general feeling was that we will be spread too thin. We rejected the idea for now. –
 - David suggested we think about what to do with the extra plants. Try to work with a non-profit?? What about BEAT or BNRC with their trailheads?

9. District Administrator Updates
 - We are still waiting to hear about the 2023 Basic and Innovative Grant funding. The Healthy Soil Action Program contract and reimbursement forms have been signed.
 - Once the ground thaws, we will get working on signage for The Armory pollinator garden.
 - We had one inquiry for no-till in September.
 - We need to do an audit.
 - Cynthia was on a 3-hour riparian border training session with BAV. Evan Abramson was the presenter.

10. Old Business
 - There was no new business

11. Supervisor/Staff Comments and/or Announcements
 - There were no comments or announcements.

12. The next Supervisor meeting will be on March 1 @ 4pm.

13. Adjournment
 - Donna made a motion to end the meeting at 5:18pm, seconded by Ron. All in favor.