

Berkshire Conservation District
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 3, 2023
Supervisor Meeting

Starting at 4:00 pm

1. Adam called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and there was a quorum.
2. Present: Supervisors: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), David Ellis (Treasurer), Donna Kittredge (Secretary), Ned Kirchner, Ambrose Clausen (Healthy Soil/No Till Coordinator), and Cynthia Grippaldi (Program Administrator)
3. Public Comment Period
No members of the public were present.
4. Report from NRCS Representative
 - a. NRCS/BCD MOU
Dan was unable to attend but sent everyone an email update. Adam screen shared the document with the group. Ned made a motion to accept the NRCS document, seconded by Ron. All in favor.
5. Secretary's Report – Submitted by Donna Kittredge
 - a. Review and approval of April 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Ned made a motion to accept the April 2023 Secretary's Report, seconded by David. All in favor.
6. Treasurer's Report – Submitted by David Ellis
 - a. Review and approval of Treasurer's Report
See the April 2023 Treasurer's Report. Adam asked if we had found an auditor and David will look into it as it's been requested through the contract for the Basic & Innovative grant. Ron made a motion to accept the April 2023 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ned. All in favor.
7. Program Status/Actions
 - a. HSAP No-Till Program - Ambrose Clausen
Ambrose attended the 2nd Farmland Trust meeting where 10 farms were represented and he met Jay Silverman who is a hay nerd with background from UMass ag. Jay has a hay field he cut for 10 years without reseeded. Ambrose had his first site visit in Windsor. He said that farmers want to use the seeder but need to figure out their nutrient needs first. He is having a Zoom meeting this week with UMass about taking soil samples. Adam suggested we purchase a soil testing auger for Ambrose to use. Ned asked Ambrose regarding metrics to report the number of acres he's talked about with farmers. We have four more rental periods. Adam suggested that program promotion is key and Ambrose will craft a promotion with Cynthia. He is working on a business card that will include his, Cynthia's and Adam's names. Adam asked Ambrose if there were

other materials he could use. Ambrose said a postcard with the picture of the machine could be useful to help folks remember.

b. Fall 2023 Plant Sale – Lou

Lou was unable to attend the meeting but will update the plant list and slides soon.

8. New Business/Actions

a. Board Resolution to EEA for HSAP funding through 2023

Cynthia and Megan met with Tom who said the \$50,000 we are receiving needs to be used by June 30. He can't extend that use but we could form and pass a resolution that states in order to fund the program the usage date needs to be extended. Adam read the Board Resolution for the record. Cynthia said we need to justify how we spend the money by submitting receipts. David will record all No-till activity so when we do a quarterly review for Tom, all No-till activity will be in a separate bank account and report. Adam made a motion to accept the Board Resolution, seconded by Ned. All in favor.

b. Point of Sale system

We used Venmo successfully during the 2022 Plant Sale. Adam was thinking of having a point of sale system on site and there was discussion regarding a need for a system. If we're having events outdoors, we would need wifi. Adam will share some options for point of sale and wifi.

c. Ned asked how we back up all the data in the Cloud. Adam said we have a back up on the District computer. We purchased an external hard drive and all info on Google Drive is saved to it.

9. District Administrator Updates

a. FY23 Basic and Innovative Proposal update

Cynthia just got an email from Mike who said most of the No-till parts are in good shape. He's going to order some small items. We have one spare tire. Adam said we need to ask Mike if he charged the District for the grease. We have the money to reimburse him for the maintenance but he needs to bill us. Ambrose said the seeder will be turning 1,000 acres soon.

b. HVA meeting May 18 - Berkshire Ag NPS Partner meeting

Cynthia will attend and report back. David might be able to attend the meeting, as well.

c. FY22 Pollinator program update

The town of Lee will be voting at their next town meeting to become a pollinator friendly town. We installed the sign at the North Adams Armory Pollinator Garden on April 22nd. Cynthia will mention it in the May newsletter. Cynthia was asked by the Hinsdale Council on Aging to speak with their group on how they can help pollinators.

10. Old Business

a. Internship

Cynthia met a student from Westfield State who inquired about an internship. In the past, internships are initiated by the schools. Ron suggested we create a job description for an intern and that we bring ideas to a future meeting. Ambrose said there's a new

group of students from Simon's Rock taking over Gideon's Garden. At Simon's Rock a job description is sent and students are placed.

b. New Supervisors

We will continue to discuss how to bring more supervisors on board.

11. Supervisor/Staff Comments and/or Announcements

Cynthia will be away from next Friday, May 12th through Monday, May 15th.

12. The next Supervisor meeting will be on June 7 @ 4pm, and will be a hybrid meeting. Depending on where we meet, we might need a hot spot in order to have video. Ron suggested we meet at the Pittsfield Athenaeum. Because of space limitations, we will ask the public to join us via Zoom.

13. Adjournment

David made a motion to end the meeting at 6:30pm, seconded by Ron. All in favor.