

Berkshire Conservation District  
78 Center St. Suite 102, Pittsfield, MA 01201  
(413) 443-1776 x102  
admin@berkshireconservation.org  
[www.berkshireconservation.org](http://www.berkshireconservation.org)

BCD Supervisor Interim Meeting Minutes  
Monday April 23, 2025 starting at 4:30pm

The Berkshire Conservation District convened a Supervisors Meeting via Zoom. Members of the public were invited to attend via Zoom and were welcome to speak only during the public comment period.

1. 4:30 Call to order and Determination of Quorum - Adam Galambos, Chair  
There was a quorum and Adam convened the meeting at 4:48pm. Present: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Co-chair), Ned Kirchner, Cynthia Grippaldi (District Administrator), Ambrose Clausen (Program Manager), Jill Wenner (Strategic Program Assistant), Max Prum, Lynn Browne (Treasurer)

2. 4:50 Public Comment Period  
No members of the public were present.

3. 4:52 New Business
  - a. Discussion regarding the consequences of the District not getting the Challenge Grant 2 and the direct impact this is having on how the District operates and what programming we are able to offer going forward.
  - b. Brainstorm ideas for solutions and for alternate funding from non-EEA sources

Noted from the meeting:

- Lynn asked if we are okay drawing down the savings for our expenses. Adam, Ron and Ned are comfortable with this.
- Cynthia, Ambrose and Jill have reduced their hours. Adam said while it's a generous gesture, it's not a sustainable offer.
- Adam knows of office space in Pittsfield as we will need space for our office items when/if the Federal building is sold.
- Adam mentioned there are some expenses for software that can be cut but he thinks it's more beneficial to keep it.
- Plant sale up front cost for September is \$4,000. Ambrose has not ordered the perennials. Trees/shrubs have been ordered for \$2,700.
- Insurances are coming up in May and July \$2,000-\$2,500 for all three.
- If we don't receive the B&I grant, that would mean the closure of our District
- Ned suggested we go full steam ahead on our plans and Jill, Ambrose and Cynthia can continue to explore potential sources for funding.
- Cynthia said she, Ambrose and Jill have been working on a grant thru MDAR where MACD is the lead and will write the grant and is including most of the CDs in MA which could be up to \$1M but that would be shared. The results would be out in September and money would be available in November.
- Cynthia attended a webinar today about grant writing from the National Conservation District Employees Association. Some of the CDs have set up a separate Friends of Conservation Districts 501C3. Would that fly in MA? Adam said starting a 501(c)3 status is complicated. -Look into Berkshire Taconic Foundation
- Municipalities? They're eligible for certain grants that we're not eligible for. Partnerships?
- Continue to focus our efforts on MACD grant
- Ned suggested Williams College. Adam knows a department head indirectly and can contact that

person.

-We should apply and write for as many grants as possible but we need help identifying grants that are appropriate for us.

-Lynn asked if we make it to October and don't get the B&I, what would we do about the 2 pieces of equipment. Adam suggested another CD could buy them or they would go up for auction. -Jill will explore getting on list serves for grant announcements.

-MACD has funding to resuscitate CDs.

-Cynthia asked about contacting BAV to ask if they want to fund the Challenge Grant project. Ned suggested going big and asking for all it and see what they say. Cynthia will reach out to Ben with BAV.

-Ned thanked the staff for their reduction in hours and pay.

4. 5:45 Supervisor/Staff Comments and/or Announcement

There were no comments or announcements.

5. 5:50 Motion to adjourn meeting

Ned made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Max. There was a roll-call and all were in favor.