

Berkshire Conservation District  
78 Center St. Suite 102, Pittsfield, MA 01201  
(413) 443-1776 x102

BCD Annual Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 13, 2025 starting at 4:00pm

The Berkshire Conservation District convened the 2025 Annual Meeting. Members of the public were invited to attend via Zoom link and were welcome to speak during the public comment period.

1. 4:00 - Call to Order, determination of Quorum, Max Prum, Chair of the Board of Supervisors There was a quorum, and Max called the meeting to order at 4pm. Present: Max Prum (Chair), Donna Kittredge (Secretary), Ron Kujawski, Ned Kirchner, Dave Klimowicz, Ambrose Clausen (Program Manager), Cynthia Grippaldi (District Administrator), Lynn Browne (Treasurer) and Jill Wenner (Strategic Program Assistant) Five members of the public were present.
2. 4:05 - Welcome Message - Max Prum, Chair of the Board of Supervisors  
Max welcomed everyone to the 2025 BCD Annual Meeting.
3. 4:15 - Nominations and Election of Supervisors and Associates  
Ned opened the floor for nominations for supervisors and associates. He asked if anyone online was interested in being nominated for a supervisor or associate role. Hearing none, Ned closed out the nominations. Max was nominated for a 3-year term. Ron and Jocelyn were each nominated for a 1-year term. Ned asked if anyone disagreed with the nominations. Hearing none, he moved to have Tom swear in those who will serve new terms.
4. 4:20 - BCD Programming Presentation – Ambrose Clausen, Program Manager
  - Farmer Roundtable Dinner was held in January 2025
  - MAPS soil health residency for first grade students at Muddy Book school. Samples of student art and writing from the residency were shown.
  - Soil Health Workshops were held in southern Berkshire communities.
  - Native Plant Sale 2025 – Western MA Master Gardeners shared info and analyzed soil samples. We sold out of most of our inventory. This year, we added nut tree species from Yellowbud Farm, a MA and VT based wholesale nursery. We had 3 public presentations that will be posted to the BCD website. We ran a raffle and invited sponsors.
  - No-till Program – the rental program ran at a slightly diminished capacity but still covered over 300 acres for the 2025 season.
5. 4:30 - Keynote Presentation - Spotted Lantern Fly. Elizabeth Barnes, Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator, MDAR  
Some key notes from Elizabeth's presentation (presentation can be viewed on the BCD website):
  - SLF is indigenous to China and Vietnam. They are now a big problem in South Korea and Japan.
  - SLF feed on over 173 plants including grape vines, roses, fruit trees, ornamental trees, and woody trees. -They present a threat to US fruit tree and logging industries. Early in the season they prefer young plants. -They can overfeed and produce honeydew which grows sooty mold in the understory, impeding photosynthesis.
  - This year, they have seen a massive spike in SLF reports and they are unable to reply individually to those reports.
6. 5:00 – Keynote Presentation Q & A
  - Q. Are there any species that feed on SLF? Native species of ants, birds, and assassin bugs will eat SLF. There is some evidence that birds might be learning to avoid them.
  - Q. Are there any temperatures that will kill them? A study shows that -13°F is the temperature at which no eggs hatch, while 5°F still had limited hatching.

7. 5:15 - NRCS Report - Sylvia Muñiz-Gayá, District Conservationist USDA/NRCS  
Sylvia has returned to the office.
8. 5:30 - Secretary's Report – Donna Kittredge, Supervisor, Secretary  
Ron made a motion to accept the October 2025 Meeting minutes, seconded by Ned. There was a roll-call, and all were in favor.
9. 5:40 - Treasurer's Report – Submitted by Lynn Browne, Bookkeeper  
Lynn delivered all the information for the audit to the auditor. Lynn reported that although less money will be coming in, we have not seen a big hit to our savings yet. Ron moved to accept the October 2025 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Donna. There was a roll-call, with all in favor except Ned, who abstained because he needed more time to review the report.
10. 5:50 - New Business/Announcement  
-Replacement for Adam on the State Commission – we need a new member for the State Commission. Quarterly meetings take place on the second Thursday in January, April, July and October from 10am to noon. Meetings will be held via Zoom. Discussion for a replacement for Adam will continue during our next monthly meeting.  
-Our next monthly supervisor meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. -The next meeting of the Agroforestry committee will be held on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.
10. 6:00 - Motion to adjourn  
Ron made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Max. There was a roll-call, and all were in favor.