

Berkshire Conservation District
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BCD Supervisor Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 5, 2026 starting at 4:00pm

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

1. 4:00 Call to Order and Determination of Quorum - Max Prum, Chair
Present: Max Prum (Chair); Donna Kittredge (Secretary); Ron Kujawski; Lynn Browne (Treasurer); Cynthia Grippaldi (District Administrator); and Jill Wenner (Strategic Program Assistant); Emily Marriot (NRCS)
Roll-call was taken. There was a quorum and Max convened the meeting at 4:05pm.
2. 4:10 Public Comment Period
There were no members of the public present.
3. 4:15 Report from NRCS Representative – Emily Marriot, NRCS Soil Conservationist, Acting District Conservationist
 - a. Update on NRCS office staffing – Kaleigh is still a Conservationist. Josh is covering 4 counties.
 - b. NRCS Practices and Activity status update – They are presently taking applications. There are 42 applications for Berkshire county. It's early in the fiscal year and they have not selected contracts yet. The Stewardship program receives payment once and year and they are working on paying them.
4. 4:30 Secretary's Report – Submitted by Donna Kittredge, Secretary
 - a. Review and approval of the January 2026 Meeting Minutes –
Ron made a motion to accept the January 2026 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Max. There was a roll call and all were in favor.
5. 4:45 Treasurer's Report – Submitted by Lynn Browne, Bookkeeper
 - a. Review and approval of Treasurer's Report –
Donna made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Ron. There was a roll-call and all were in favor.
 - b. Quickbooks and Budget update - staff funding – Lynn said savings are half of what they were in January. She thinks the District can run until June 30. We might be able to stretch it until July or August.
6. 5:00 Program/Grant Updates - Ambrose Clausen, Program Manager
 - a. No-Till – there are two renters for the small drill. One request is for April 1st with no deposit. Lynn paid Mike Balawender for last year. The budget for the no-till was in the B&I grant, then the MDAR grant funded it. Should the next B&I be awarded to us, it will cover Plant Sale, the Local Working Group and no-till. The cost for the no-till program is as follows: \$1,750 for storage, \$2,000 for maintenance, and \$2,227 for insurance. No-till insurance is due May 9th. An extra \$784 is due for no-till insurance in July. To run no-till, we need to use our savings. We need to hire a boots on the ground person for the no-till program.
 - b. FY25/26 B&I 'Urban Ag and Community Engagement' grant planning and implementation – we just fulfilled our commitment of \$3,000 to Kamar.
 - c. Agroforestry Committee — the group talked about the MVP grant. Ben Crockett from Berkshire Ag Ventures attended the meeting. There was a discussion about hazlenut trees. The Agroforestry

Committee started with BCD members Max, Cynthia, Ambrose, and Jill back in July, 2025. Max has worked hard to add the following experts in the field to our meeting invite list since then. Some of them have come to our meetings. The names on the list are as follows: Tom Ryan, Management Forester, MA

DCR (Berkshire); John Meiklejohn, American Chestnut Foundation; Colin Mettey, Service Forester, MA DCR (Berkshire); Jeff Jourdane, Berkshire-based Consulting Forester; Dave Klimowitz, Owner, Beetle Bugs Native Gardens/BCD; Michael Downey, Outreach Coordinator, DCR (Berkshire); Dr. Justin Dowdall, RPI Professor; Jono Neiger, Regenerative Design Group/Big River Chestnuts; Elodie Eid, KTCC, Northern Nut Growers Assoc.; Ben Crockett, Climate Smart Ag Program Mgr, Berkshire Ag Ventures (BAV)

d. MVP Eco Action grant opportunity — this is a complicated grant that must be submitted by March 25th. Jill has gleaned information about the MVP grant from looking on other planning commission sites.

7. 5:30 Supervisor/Staff Comments/ Announcements

a. Replacement for Adam on the State Commission -- Max will attend the four State Commission meetings this year. The next meeting is April 9th.

b. Review of our Long-Range Plan for any updates – it's too early to discuss any long-range plans. c. Confirm March Supervisor meeting date & time -- The next Supervisor meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3rd at 4pm.

8. 6:00 Motion to Adjourn Meeting

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