

Berkshire Conservation District
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BCD Supervisor Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 14, 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); Michael Schreiber; Kamaar Taliaferro
Roll-call was taken. There was a quorum and Max convened the meeting at 4:06pm.
2. 4:07 Public Comment Period
There were no members of the public present.
3. 4:08 Report from NRCS Representative – Sylvia Muniz-Gaya, NRCS District Conservationist
a. Update on NRCS office staffing – Sylvia was not present
4. 4:09 Secretary’s Report – Submitted by Donna Kittredge, Secretary
a. Review and approval of the April 2026 Meeting Minutes –
Ron made a motion to accept the April 2026 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Max. There was a roll-call and all were in favor.
5. 4:11 Treasurer’s Report – Submitted by Lynn Browne, Bookkeeper
a. Review and approval of Treasurer's Report – Lynn reported that we continue to spend down the grant money. Donna made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report, seconded by Ron. There was a roll-call and all were in favor.
6. 4:15 Programs
 - a. No-Till – Mike and Ambrose are keeping an eye on the program. There is one rental interest in RI and they would send a trailer for the no-till.
 - b. FY25/26 B&I ‘Urban Ag and Community Engagement’—Kamaar is the contractor who works with the City of Pittsfield on this project. They have 5 gardens and a garden club at Dower Square. 76 gardeners take part in the Community Gardens. They have held 3 word-of-mouth planting sessions where gardeners planted for 2 to 3 hours. They started seedlings and planted trees at Dower Square to work towards greening up the area as there is a lot of asphalt. They had a Mother’s Day event with 15 kids from the Conte School (environmental justice neighborhood) and they potted up plants and included words of inspiration for their caregivers. Kamaar had two updates: 1) the costs he projected shifted due to availability of potting soil. He tried to reach out to farms during the winter to join them in bulk purchasing but was too late in the season. The cost of compost and topsoil was about 50% higher than in previous years. He was able to get compost from Holiday Brook Farm. 2) Kamaar was hoping they might be able to partner with a local nursery that provides native perennials by the end of June. It is likely this will happen in September. In lieu of a workshop on native perennials, they will do a workshop on potted gardening with the Christian Center and folks from Woven Roots Farm. 30 to 40 people will attend and learn how to start plants from seed.
 - c. Agroforestry Committee — the group has not met since the last meeting and Max needs to schedule a meeting.
 - d. MVP Eco Action grant opportunity — we should hear about this during the summer with funding in September/October.

7. 4:50 BCD Transition (Executive Session)

Max made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss candidates for the District Administrator's position, seconded by Donna. There was a roll-call and all were in favor. Discussion took place. Max made a motion to return to the Supervisor's Meeting, seconded by Donna. There was a roll-call and all were in favor.

8. 5:30 Supervisor/Staff Comments/ Announcements

- a. Recruiting Supervisors – Donna spoke with Ian Hanley (Executive Director of NH Department of Agriculture) about recruiting supervisors. Ian reported that word of mouth is the most effective way to attract supervisors. He said they inform the public at every opportunity on how to become a supervisor. He said the Local Working Group has helped in that attendees see that their time and efforts have value and it is easier to recruit them as associates and supervisors. Ian said that 7 out of 10 NH districts changed their meeting time to evenings which can help members of the public attend.
- b. Confirm June Meeting – we will meet Thursday, June 11th at 7pm via Zoom.

9. 5:46 Motion to Adjourn Meeting

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