

**Berkshire Conservation District
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**BCD Supervisor Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 7, 2024 4:30pm**

The Berkshire Conservation District convened remotely via Zoom supervisors. Members of the public were invited to attend and speak during the Public Comment Period.

1.Call to order and Determination of Quorum - Adam Galambos

Adam called the meeting to order at 4:42pm and there was a quorum.

Present: Supervisors: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), David Ellis, Donna Kittredge (Secretary), Ambrose Clausen (Healthy Soil/No-Till Coordinator), Cynthia Grippaldi (Program Administrator), Lynn Browne (Bookkeeper and Treasurer), Sylvia Munez Gaya (NRCS)

2.Public Comment Period

No members of the public were present.

3.Report from NRCS Representative — Sylvia Munez Gaya

Sylvia asked for the MOU to be returned with signatures from the supervisors. Sylvia mentioned there is the possibility that NRCS could assist with No-till practices. Adam suggested that a reciprocal relationship with NRCS could be important for those interested in the No-till program. Adam will be in touch with Sylvia for future discussion.

4.Austin Miles, MACD - Statewide Local Working Group

Austin is looking for one supervisor from each CD to represent and assist the efforts to facilitate the break-out rooms. It will be necessary to attend a 1-hour training session and attend the entirety of each meeting. There will be 2 break-out sessions during the meeting which is on March 19 from 9:30 to noon. Facilitators and note takers are needed and need to be available at 9:15am.

5.Secretary's Report - Submitted by Donna Kittredge

Review and Approval of January 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes

David made a motion to accept the January Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ron. There was a roll call, and all were in favor.

6.Treasurer's Report - Submitted by David Ellis & Lynn Browne

-Adam mentioned that we voted during Executive Session (at the January 2024 meeting) to have Lynn step up to roll of Treasurer and she accepted.

-Review and approval of January 2024 Treasurer's Report — see the January Treasurer's Report David made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Donna. There was a roll call, and all were in favor.

-Status of Audit — Lynn dropped off materials to the auditors. They want every bank statement from

every month. She will send e-statements to them.

-Quickbooks Update —the Quickbooks support group has been very helpful. It will greatly help the administrative side of the district. Ambrose asked if we should get a fiscal sponsor for Plant Sale. We will now be able to accept payments straight into Quickbooks.

7.Program/Grant Updates

-Equipment Rental and Soil Testing Program — this program has grown substantially. Ambrose mentioned that for the 12' drill, he has 5 people looking for a spring rental. He's hoping to add another 100 acres for the season, weather permitting. He will send out another mailing which will offer subsidies for renting. He would like to partner with Umass for soil testing. Some farmers get their soil tested from the companies that sell them fertilizer. Living Soil Test in ME and a lab in NY state are two companies that do microscopic testing. Ambrose would like to subsidize cover crop seed, fertilizer, lime (material, not application) cover crop and compost all up to a certain amount.

-Fall Plant Sale — it's time to find sources for plants. There's a chance that New England Wetlands may be using neonicotinoids this year. He will order plants soon.

-HSAP Challenge Grant — this grant proposes to acquire a 7' no-till drill, taking what we've been doing well over the years and amplifying it and having a dedicated manager for the program. They both work well together but they will also work well apart. Ambrose worked hard to get a broader group of organizations to partner with us — living soil consultant, people doing collaborations between art and science in schools, there are two equipment events (one event is a forest walk, and a north county and south county event of farmers sharing their challenges).

-Basic/Innovation FY23 (Regenerative Agriculture Best Practices Initiative) — to be discussed -Basic

Innovation YA Resilient soils campaign — waiting on this to move forward with Plant Sale ordering

8.New Business

-Biochar site visit at Maiden River Farm – Ron visited with David Long from Maiden River Farm and they have a biochar system at his farm in Housatonic. David was present at our meeting and said what they are doing is modest and their approach is geared for a small farm. There was discussion about us visiting the farm to see the burn.

9.Supervisor/Staff Comments and/or Announcements

Cynthia will be away from February 27th to March 12th.

10. Motion to Adjourn

David made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm. Seconded by Ron. There was a roll call, and all were in favor.