

Berkshire Conservation District
Wednesday, October 6, 2021
Meeting Minutes 5pm

Call-in number 1(646) 558-8656. Meeting ID: 505 943 8770# Passcode: 12345

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5059438770?pwd=WmVFNXBzaTR3RVlXVTNqRnR5Sng0Zz09>

1. Call to order at 5:03pm and determination of quorum.
Present: Supervisors: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), David Ellis (Treasurer), Donna Kittredge (Secretary), Ned Kirchner; Mike Balawender (Associate)
Program Administrator: Cynthia Grippaldi
NRCS Representative: Sylvia Muniz-Gaya
2. Public Comment Period
No members of the public were present.
3. NRCS Reporting and Comments
Sylvia Muniz-Gaya introduced herself. She gave an overview on NRCS contracts. The Pittsfield office will finally have the furniture delivered on October 25th and 26th. Sylvia will be out of the office from October 26th to November 6th. She will arrange NRCS representation during our Annual Meeting. They are going to have a Pathways Program intern for a soil conservation position available for the Pittsfield office.
4. Secretary's Report – Submitted by Donna Kittredge
Review and approval of September 8th, 2021 Monthly Meeting Minutes. Ned moved to accept the minutes, second by David. All in favor.
5. Treasurer's Report – Submitted by David Ellis
Review and approval of September 2021 Treasurer's Report. See the September 2021 Treasurer's Report. Donna moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, second by Ned. All in favor.
- A. District Supervisors
Adam has nothing to report at present.
6. Program Status
A. No-Till Program —
 - There are invoices that are outstanding There is also a dent on the body of the No-till machine. Cynthia and Adam have talked about the need to document damage when it occurs.
 - Mike gave a synopsis of the tire damage. After the second blowout, Mike took the tire to Pete's Auto Barn where they took out the dent in the rim and put the tire on but there was a leak in the tire. The cost of tires is around \$350. And the rim was around \$150. Mike will contact Esch because he thinks it's unusual that two tires would blow. Mike will provide the tires to Ned so he can look at it from an engineering standpoint. Mike said the sidewalls of the tires seem thin.

- There was discussion about the use of Mike's farm plate. Adam asked Mike if he would provide names of farmers who want to use the No-till so we can report those numbers during the Annual Meeting.
- Tom Anderson hinted at the opportunity for secondary funding. He suggested hiring a consultant who could rework our budget and business plan. Adam said they would need to obligate it thru a grant proposal.

B. Nutrient Management Program —

- Cynthia sent letters to 80 farmers in Berkshire county describing the regulations and to 18 golf courses and to 34 conservation commissions.

C. Native Plant Pollinator Grant Program

- We have been awarded the full amount. We can start accessing it now and it's going to be split to \$21,000/year. Cynthia mentioned the job description during the MACD Lunch Bunch. It's in our newsletter, and she sent info to Amy Pulley.
To do: Ned suggested talking with Vivian Mason and Cynthia will reach out to her.
- Ron mentioned that Great Barrington voted to become a pollinator town. Vivian is willing to come to the Annual Meeting to talk about what they are doing.

D. Program Administrator Update

- If we want to add a signatory to the account, we need to have every signatory.
- Cynthia submitted a reimbursement to EEA for September. We are still waiting to receive reimbursement for August.
- Cynthia thanked Adam and Ron for participating in MACD Lunch Bunch. It was reported that a lot of districts write a job description for their supervisors. Tom Anderson said the open meeting law has been extended to April 2022. Ron mentioned they try to recruit people for 1 year positions so people can get to know the district. Perhaps internships could be provided for people who are doing ag, and/or they could volunteer to be an associate.
- We discussed moving some funds in our Primary Share into a Money Market to get a little more money. David will look into it.
- October 14 state commission meeting. Previously administrators attended. Cynthia can join remotely. She will be away Oct 11-20 but will still be working and will be reachable.
- Ned asked Cynthia to be sure Kim Skrym is all set and ready for the Annual meeting.

E. New Business

- A. Annual Meeting Adam will obligate \$100 for advertising. Cynthia advertised the Annual Meeting in the Berkshire Eagle.
- B. The deadline to reply to the ad for the Pollinator Plant Sale is October 31. Ron said Worcester plant sale has been held in several locations.

F. Comments and Announcements

There were no comments or announcements.

G. Adjournment

David moved to end the meeting at 6:23pm, second by Ned. All in favor.

