

BCD Supervisor Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 8, 2024 at 4:30pm

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

1. Call to order and Determination of Quorum - Adam Galambos
Adam called the meeting to order at 4:35pm and there was a quorum.
2. Present: Supervisors: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), Donna Kittredge (Secretary), Dan Harris, Ambrose Clausen (Healthy Soil/No-Till Coordinator), Cynthia Grippaldi (Program Administrator), Lynn Browne (Bookkeeper and Treasurer), Sylvia Munez Gaya (NRCS), Ngowari Jaja (NRCS)
3. Public Comment Period
No members of the public were present.
4. Report from NRCS Representative - [Sylvia Muniz Gaya](#) and Ngowari Jaja
Sylvia introduced Ngo Jaja as the NRCS District Conservationist of Berkshire County.
5. Secretary's Report – Submitted by Donna Kittredge
Review and approval of March 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Ron made a motion to accept the March 8 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Dan. There was a role call, and all were in favor.
6. Treasurer's Report – Submitted by Lynn Browne
 - a. Review and approval of Treasurer's Report — Lynn said all is going well.
 - b. Audit completed — we can do the audit in the fall after the fiscal year ends.
Lynn will submit the current audit to Tom. Ron made a motion to accept the audit, seconded by Dan. There was a role call, and all were in favor.
7. Program/Grant Updates — reporting by Ambrose
 - a. National Conservation Planning Partnership Survey — a survey circulated by MACD, Ambrose will fill it out on behalf of BCD
 - b. Fall Plant Sale update — Ambrose submitted orders with NE Wetlands and A Wing and A Prayer. Most of the species we will offer are new this year including wetland species and some for erosion control. He and Cynthia attended the WMMGS and sold about \$115 worth of items. Ambrose will rent a box truck for 2 days before the Plant Sale. There is also Checkerspot Farm in Colrain. He will confirm with Dicken about using Holiday Brook Farm for Plant Sale.
 - c. Lime Spreader — Ned and Mike have been talking about how lime is the place to start before planting seed. Mike found a used lime spreader in excellent condition for half the cost of new, a mid size 5 ½ tons in Leeds, MA for \$10,000. Adam said the FY '24 Grants will come through, he just doesn't know when. Ambrose reported that Mike would be the caretaker of it. Ambrose asked about attending the Soil Foodweb April 11-14 and all agreed that he should attend.

d. Biochar site visit at Maiden Flower Farm – Ron

Ron and Ambrose visited and David Long was producing biochar that day. Ron showed pictures of the operation. We mention in Challenge Grant that given resources, the District will educate folks on how to do this.

e. Events Ambrose has attended during March and April:

- 3/14 Another fantastic presentation from NOFA MA as part of their [Microbes Series](#): Unveiling the Hidden World of Soil: [Virtual Microscopy & Agricultural Insights](#) from Ruben Perilla now available on YouTube as a recording, worth watching!
- 3/15 Breakfast for Farmers & Friends of Agriculture: Legislative Breakfast, connections made to a West Stockbridge resident who may host an event in the future on land regeneration with native species, and [Leigh Davis](#)
- 3/16 Farming Forward, Climate Adaptation, hosted by BAV at the Guthrie Center in Great Barrington, presentations by [Sarah Keleman](#) on national trends and northeast specific projected changes, [Julie Fine](#) organized a listening circle allowing each participant to speak to specific issues in their operation, and a presentation by [Laura Lengnick](#), leading to peer working tables
- 3/19 Facilitated a group of the MACD Local Working Group meeting : small and med sized livestock ops, flooding, fencing, trees.
- 3/21 Soil Health Mini School presented by UMass Ext. Arthur Siller, SEE attached Agenda - this event highlighted the many unknowns of soil science, and the very specific siloed results of traditional soil tests, the failure of all of available soil tests to show a complete picture of soil health, and the lack of awareness of soil biological communities. Sam Corcorran said pH is the single most important impact you can have on agricultural soils.
- 3/22 Silvopasture in the NE Videos LIVE PANEL, presented by [Farming With Trees](#) and highlighting two farmers practicing silvopasture
- 4/4 Learning How to Regenerate the Berkshire Bioregion, presented by [AVF](#) announcing new round of Climate , [Joe Brewer](#) speaking on the [Planetary boundaries](#) developed by a cohort of international scientists of the Stockholm Resilience Centre

8. Supervisor/Staff Comments and/or Announcements

There were no comments or announcements. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, May 13 at 4:30pm.

9. Motion to Adjourn

At 6pm, Donna made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ron. There was a roll call, and all were

in favor.