

**BCD Supervisor Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 4:30pm**

*The Berkshire Conservation District convened a remote Supervisors Meeting via Zoom at the link provided.  
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

There was a quorum and Adam convened the meeting at 4:38pm.

Present: Supervisors: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), Donna Kittredge (Secretary), Ned Kirchner, Ambrose Clausen (Program Manager), Cynthia Grippaldi (District Administrator), Lynn Browne (Bookkeeper and Treasurer), Mike Balawender, and Ngowari Jaja (NRCS)

2. Public Comment Period

There were no members of the public present.

3. Report from NRCS Representative - Ngowari Jaja

- Ngo gave us an update.

4. Secretary's Report – Submitted by Donna Kittredge

- Review and approval of July 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Ned made a motion to accept the minutes with the addition of the word 'solarizing' placed in front of the word tarps under the Program/Grant Update item, seconded by Ron. There was a roll call, and all were in favor.

5. Treasurer's Report – Submitted by Lynn Browne

- Review and approval of the Treasurer's Report — see the Treasurer's Report. Tom has been responsive with reimbursements. Plant Sale income is coming in. There are currently 38 orders. Lynn reported that the audit should go smoothly. - Quickbooks Update — backup is on Cloud storage with two-factor authentication. Ned made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ron. There was a roll call, and all were in favor.

6. Program/Grant Update

- FY24 Grant 'Resilient Soils Campaign' update — Ambrose said Dicken will not be able to have a wood chip burning kiln. He suggested a second option which would be to have a kiln as an off-season project when they're not fully out in the field and some brush is available. There was discussion about lime spreaders. Mike has found several that are within the same price range. Adam asked Mike for the next meeting to have a couple of options for lime spreaders, sales sheets, a business plan as to who, where, and when this will be used. Ned suggested

- pushing education on biochar because no one knows much about it.
- Challenge Grant Update & Press Release — we have a new seed drill lined up, a caretaker, the transport set up and we're waiting for the wire transfer. First and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Muddy Brook are working with MAPS in GB and with a consultant in ME that does living soil analysis. The Berkshire Edge did a piece on it. Adam said the bank has requested that there be a board resolution that documents and grants Adam the authority to borrow money in the board's name for the new Esch seed drill. Adam said the Supervisor's Manual states it needs to be on paper. Ned moved to make a resolution for Adam to borrow for the new seed drill no greater than the amount of the invoice as a one-time resolution, seconded by Donna. There was a roll call, and all were in favor.
  - Ideas for next RFR from EEA — Ambrose mentioned having a broad seed subsidy for cover crops across the county. Resource mapping across our county with voluntary participation with lending their equipment on a peer-to-peer basis. Ned suggested we do a feasibility study.
  - NACD conference in Boston — Ambrose has the agenda and will register Sunday morning. He plans to attend a brainstorming session with all the CDs across MA. - Fall Plant Sale update, Facebook boost — Ambrose said we have sold out of 5 species. He ordered the metal stands and showed us new signage. He invited the Master Gardener's Association to have a table at the event. The café at Holiday Brook Farm will be open for visitors. Adam said we have a budget from Basic & Innovation for advertising on Facebook.
  - No-Till update — Ambrose said we have 374 acres committed for this year which includes 3 new renters. He has one person interested in using the new drill. There are 3 renters in Hampshire county signed up for September.

#### 7. Supervisor/Staff Comments and/or Announcements

- Adam mentioned his role working at the family business will be increasing as of 2025 and he will be stepping down as chair of the Conservation District as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
- Office space — we have access to NRCS office space but that's not ideal for the current RFR education projects. Mike suggested there is a school in Cheshire that may have space available. Ned suggested a monitor for our hybrid meetings. Cynthia is going to check on the open meeting laws about where we meet.
- Set date for September Supervisor Meeting — Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 at Jae's.

#### 8. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

- Ned made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:49pm, seconded by Donna. There was a roll call, and all were in favor.