

BCD Supervisor Meeting Minutes
Monday October 8, 2024 starting at 5:00pm

The Berkshire Conservation District held a Supervisors Meeting in a hybrid format. Members of the public were invited to attend via a Zoom link 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 5:08pm. Present: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), Donna Kittredge (Secretary), Ned Kirchner, David Ellis, David Kimowitz, Ambrose Clausen (Program Manager), Cynthia Grippaldi (District Administrator), and Ngowari Jaja (NRCS). There was a roll-call and all supervisors were present.

2. Public Comment Period

There were no members of the public present.

3. Report from NRCS Representative - Ngowari Jaja

Ned asked about personnel changes. Ngo reported that they have two people who are temps in the NRCS office and in the meantime, they are looking for replacements.

4. Secretary's Report – Submitted by Donna Kittredge

-Review and approval of September 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Ron made a motion to accept the September Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ned.

There was a roll-call, and all were in favor.

5. Treasurer's Report – Submitted by Lynn Browne

-Review and approval of Treasurer's Report

Ned asked if there was followup on the Plant Sale. We spent more than we made in revenue. We took a loss of \$2,011.82

Donna made a motion to accept the September Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ron.

There was a roll-call, and all were in favor.

6. Program/Grant Update

a. FY24 Grant 'Resilient Soils Campaign' update

b. Challenge Grant update — the grant is due November 19th. A suggestion was made to approach individuals who might benefit from a 50/50 partnership to facilitate good

work within the community. Ambrose and Cynthia will attend BAV's grant meeting this week and will find out what farmers need. Ned suggested that compacted soil and a method for making it better might be a topic for the grant.

c. No-Till update — this has been a busy season for the 12ft drill. The maintenance upkeep needs to be better. One of the wheels fell off during transport and fortunately there were no injuries. The rim and tire came off the drill. The studs sheared off. Mike visited the renter and replaced the tire. There are 40 more acres remaining this season. 667.5 total acres for 2024. We're still under the 2,500 acre mark before needing to do major maintenance. We need to call Esch to ask if the wheel defect caused it and the machine needs to be inspected thoroughly to insure road worthiness. The supervisors agreed that the machine needs to be assessed for road worthiness before it finishes the remaining acres for the year. The question is who needs to inspect it. The person towing it did repairs and retooled the holes for the bolts. Pricing out a hub assembly as the studs were sheared and not to spec. Ned made a motion to have an Esch or Zimmerman professional come and inspect the seed drill, seconded by Ron. Adam added that since the equipment is not road worthy, we will need to get a trailer to tow it back to Mike. There was a roll-call, and all were in favor. Ned asked if we can use the new smaller drill for the last two jobs and Ambrose will look into it.

d. Program ideas for next B&I and Challenge Grant RFRs from EEA — the new due date is November 22 for the B&I. We have a grant writing template. The difference is that Adam's role is going to decrease. We discussed bringing in a grant writer. Ambrose had a meeting with MACD Hampden/Hampshire and they're looking for more soil health staff. Franklin will continue with pollinator activities, Worcester and Middlesex will be focusing on basic funding. He doesn't see an opportunity to co-write a grant this time.

e. Annual Meeting — the Annual Meeting will be moved to December

f. Urgent Supervisor Recruitment — to be discussed later

7. Supervisor/Staff Comments and/or Announcements

-Office space — Adam said the office space in Lenox is too small and there is no storage or parking and the rental fee is beyond our budget.

-Cynthia will be leaving on Monday, October 14th for Florida.

8. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Ron made a motion to adjourn at 7:15pm, seconded by Ned. There was a roll-call, and all were in favor.