

BCD Supervisor Meeting Minutes

Monday September 16, 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 5:09pm.

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), Max Prum and Ngowari Jaja (NRCS)

2. Public Comment Period

Max Prum, who is interested in joining the District attended via Zoom to learn more.

3. Report from NRCS Representative - Ngowari Jaja

Ngo gave a report of the NRCS application deadlines.

4. Secretary's Report – Submitted by Donna Kittredge

-Review and approval of August 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Adam made a motion to accept the August, 2024 Meeting Minutes, 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 Treasurer's Report — See the September Treasurer's Report.

Donna 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 we have already paid for a spring 2025 workshop at Berkshire Hills Elementary school for 1st and 3rd graders to learn about soil microbes through art projects. We will have two dinners in Jan & Feb on lime and land use. There will be an in-person event in spring about biochar and dairy farms.

-Challenge Grant update — we have a new Esch seed drill. Daniel Dunton is the new caretaker. Ambrose is designing a community event workshop with a presenter from NOFA Mass. It will be bilingual so part of presentation will be in Spanish. Ambrose would like to consider putting some money towards soil health inputs reimbursements. -No-Till update, new machine — the new seed drill is a 7ft wide Esch 5607 and there's a window so you can see the seed in the hopper. We have the insurance coverage in place. He has one renter in Sheffield and he will go in person to learn about the calibration. The new

drill can be towed with a smaller truck.

-Plant Sale Update — Plant Sale was a big success! We will have numbers next month. Plants in the amount of \$530 were donated to Dicken Crane. Gould Farm got a \$230 donation of plants. There are around 25 trees left.

-Ideas for next RFR from EEA — due date Oct 21st. Ned suggested a better working relationship with NRCS. Adam suggested mini grants for applicants for conservation oriented activity. We need a space that serves more of our needs than the spaces we've been using for doing more outreach and education. Adam said someone has some office space in Lenox on Walker St. Ambrose is wondering about a local working group for lime and spreaders.

-Annual Meeting — this meeting happens during the busiest time of year for us. We have done it online. October Thursday 14th?? Someone to speak on biochar? -Urgent Supervisor Recruitment — Mike said he knows someone who might be interested. As of next meeting, have the interested people attend and do a big sell on joining the District. We will make an effort to recruit supervisors at the annual meeting.

7. Supervisor/Staff Comments and/or Announcements

- Cynthia will be bringing her mother back to FL on Oct. 10th

-Next supervisor meeting, Tuesday, October 8 at 5pm. Grant is due on 21st.

8. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Ron made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04, seconded by Ned. There was a roll call, and all were in favor.