

BCD Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2025 4:30pm

The Berkshire Conservation District convened a monthly Supervisors Meeting on
Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 4:30 PM held at The Proprietor's Lodge.
Members of the public were welcome to speak during the public comment period.

1. 4:30pm - Call to Order, determination of Quorum

There was a quorum, and Ron convened the meeting at 4:45pm. Present: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), Donna Kittredge (Secretary), Ned Kirchner, Dave Klimowitz, Ambrose Clausen (Program Manager), Cynthia Grippaldi (District Administrator), Jill Wenner (Strategic Program Assistant), Mike Balawender, Max Prum, and Jocelyn Latvalla. There was a roll-call, and all supervisors were present.

2. 4:45pm Public Comment Period

No members of the public were present.

3. 4:55pm Report from NRCS Representative - Lilliam Torres-Santiago

There was no report from NRCS this month.

4. Secretary's Report – Submitted by Donna Kittredge

Review and approval of December 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Ned made a motion to accept the December Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ron. There was a roll-call and all were in favor.

5. 5:00pm Treasurer's Report – Submitted by Lynn Browne

Review and approval of Treasurer's Report

Ron made a motion to approve the December Treasurer's Report, seconded by Donna. There was a roll-call and all were in favor.

6. 5:05pm Program/Grant Updates

a. FY24 B&I Grant 'Resilient Soils Campaign' update — Berkshire Grown will be holding a financial planning workshop on January 15 at the Berkshire Athenaeum for new farmers and Ambrose requested \$200 to cover lunch for the event. Ned made a motion for BCD to provide up to \$200 for the event, seconded by Adam. There was a roll-call and all were in favor. Ambrose is still working to schedule a time for the biochar webinar. Dicken Crane and a farmer from White Weather Farm in NY agreed to speak about their experiences. Ambrose would like to set up a

fund for farmers to apply to purchase compost as part of the technical assistance section of the grant. There was discussion of having a deadline for applicants, requiring receipts before reimbursement, and having soil tested before applying compost. Ambrose will discuss with BAV.

b. Challenge Grant update — there will be three in-person events and they are in the planning stages. The events will be focused on soil health microbes and will take place in March/April.

c. No-Till update — Ambrose needs to make changes to the rental program (because of the tire incident). There is a log book but Ambrose is not sure farmers will check off all the items after use. There was discussion about having a BCD person inspect the no-till with the renter. Adam would like an attorney to review all our contracts before the rental season starts. Ambrose will schedule a demo for the small no-till drill and Mike offered to help as he has a small tractor.

d. EEA FY25 B&I and Challenge Grant status — Tom said there are no updates about the grant.

e. Strategic Program Assistant position — Jill Wenner accepted the position. She will fill out paperwork with Lynn and begin work on Monday, January 13th.

f. Urgent Supervisor Recruitment & Officers going forward — Adam discussed our need to recruit more supervisors. We should have between 5 and 7 and we have four. Ned is pushing for someone who has an agriculture background. The next State Commission meeting is on January 24th. Ned made a motion to nominate Max Prum and Jocelyn Latvalla to become supervisors and for the state to bring them on board, seconded by Adam. All were in favor.

7. 6:10 New Business

a. Schedule performance review of staff by Supervisors — (for Ambrose, Lynn and Cynthia) Adam requested that supervisors send their thoughts to him via email. Supervisors will have a zoom meeting on Friday the 17th at 10:00am.

8. 6:15pm Supervisor/Staff Comments and/or Announcements

a. Schedule February Supervisor meeting — the meeting will be on Wednesday, February 12 at 4:30pm and we will meet via Zoom

9. 6:20pm Motion to Adjourn

Ned made a motion to adjourn at 6:16pm, seconded by Ron. There was a roll-call and all were in favor.