Berkshire Conservation District
78 Center St. Suite 102, Pittsfield, MA 01201
Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 4:30pm

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

1. 4:34 Call to order and Determination of Quorum - Adam Galambos, Chair
There was a quorum, and Adam convened the meeting at 4:34pm. Present: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), Dave Klimowicz, Max Prum, Jocelyn Latvalla, Ambrose Clausen (Program Manager), Cynthia Grippaldi (District Administrator), and Jill Wenner (Strategic Program Assistant)

2. 4:34 Public Comment Period
There were no members of the public present.

3. 4:55 Report from NRCS Representative - Kaliegh Walther, Acting District Conservationist
There was no representative available from NRCS this evening.

4.4:56 Secretary's Report - Submitted by Donna Kittredge, Secretary
a. Review and approval of the April 7th and 23rd, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Ron made a motion to accept the February 12 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Jocelyn. There was a roll-call, and all were in favor for the April 23rd minutes with Ned abstaining on the April 7th minutes as he was not present for that meeting.

6. 5:00 Treasurer's Report - Submitted by Lynn Browne, Bookkeeper
a. Review and approval of Treasurer's Report
Ron made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ned. There was a roll-call and all were in favor.

7. 5:03 Program/Grant Updates - Ambrose Clausen, Program Manager
a. Plant Sale – Ambrose purchased trees and shrubs for approximately $2,800. He will be working with $4,000 for plant materials. He is waiting for the new B&I to be signed before printing posters. The posters will include a QR code to our site, our phone number, and the link to our site.
b. Challenge Grant Round 1 – the first session with Music, Art, Puppets and Sound took place at Muddy Brook and Ambrose shared photos of students making art with soil microbes. He is going to attend the next session there on Monday to see what the activity is like. The first soil microbes presentation took place in Great Barrington for community gardeners presented by Rubin Paria of Microbe Quest. The presentation took place in Spanish with English subtitles. People there can grow food for themselves or sell it to a food program. Ambrose was asked to come back to walk their property.
They want to create an edible forest plant walk there. He helped identify edibles and what might be

cleaned up.

c. No-till updates – Ambrose said both drills have been rented this season. The small drill was rented by a new farmer in Dalton on 8 acres for cover crop and to seed a pasture. The large drill went to Southampton to one of our regular renters. Everyone is paying $10/acre and $75/day. He has 1 other renter for the large drill and 1 potential renter. Ambrose has asked NRCS to promote our drills. They are promoting our drill with fliers and postcards in their office but there are only one or two people in their office now. Adam suggested we add photos of the drill in use and Plant Sale to our social media site. Ned suggested we contact WAMC about our activities. Adam asked if insurance was in place and Cynthia reported our no-till insurance and liability insurance are up to date.

8. 5:15 New Business

MDAR MA Farmland Partnership Program RFR

a. Ambrose and Jill put together a budget for this grant and focused the content on BCD's 5-year plan. The deadline is May 19th. It will be awarded in September and programming would begin in November.

b. Stephanie Blumethal is coordinating the Environmental Film Festival on May 21st at the Triplex in GB on biodiversity and asked if anyone from the District would be interested in being on a panel after the movie. Cynthia will ask Stephanie for a stipend for Ambrose to be on the Q&A panel after the film. Ned sent a link to supervisors with info for non-profit grant writing through MDAR.

9. 5:35 Supervisor/Staff Comments and/or Announcements

a. Supervisor Committees – fundraising, grant opportunities, programming, etc. Adam and Cynthia suggested we develop a committee for funding and grant opportunities. Max mentioned his interest in creating an agro forestry nut trees committee. He suggested working with NH and VT Districts who receive a lot of money for agro forestry and nut trees. Ambrose attended a forestry working group this year and learned about the state programs and their policies. Jill is interested in the agro forestry committee, as well.

b. Schedule June Supervisor meeting — Monday, June 9 at 4:30 via Zoom.

10. 5:50 Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Ron made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50, seconded by Max. There was a roll-call and all were in favor.