Berkshire Conservation District
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BCD Supervisor Meeting Minutes
Monday August 11, 2025 starting at 3:00pm

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

1. 3:00 Call to order and Determination of Quorum – Max Prum, Chair
There was a quorum, and Max convened the meeting at 3:06pm. Present: Max Prum (Chair), Adam Galambos (Vice Chair), Donna Kittredge (Secretary), Ron Kujawski, Ned Kirchner, Jocelyn Latvalla, Ambrose Clausen (Program Manager), Cynthia Grippaldi (District Administrator), and Jill Wenner (Strategic Program Assistant)

2. 3:10 Public Comment Period
No members of the public were present.

3. 3:20 Report from NRCS Representative - Sylvia Muniz-Gaya, District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS a. Update on NRCS office staffing
Sylvia is at the office every Friday. She shared a report on NRCS practices implemented last month. Ned asked when the next round of funding might be and Sylvia said she will know what their budget will be on September 30th. Ambrose asked about biochar applications and if there was any money for that which will be determined by the budget.

4. 3:30 Discuss meeting with senators and representatives for additional, non restricted funding – Ned Ned has a presentation he would like to update and share via Zoom with our senators and representatives to help educate them about what our District does. Ned made a motion that we update his proposal in preparation to present it to the senators and representatives. There was a roll-call, and all were in favor.

5. 3:40 Secretary's Report – Submitted by Donna Kittredge, Secretary
a. Review and approval of the July 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Ron made a motion to accept the July 7 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ned. There was a roll-call, and all were in favor.

6. 3:50 Treasurer's Report – Submitted by Lynn Browne, Bookkeeper
a. Review and approval of Treasurer's Report
Lynn reported that we're spending down the Challenge Grant. She will have the Plant Sale report at the September meeting. She is getting ready for the audit.
Donna made a motion to accept the July 7 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ron. There was a roll-call, and all were in favor.

7. 4:00 Program/Grant Updates - Ambrose Clausen, Program Manager
a. Healthy Soils – the compost subsidy still has money in it and fall is a good time to spread compost. b. Plant Sale 2025 – we discussed the tasks that remain. Jill shared her experience getting gift certificates for our raffle. We have a sponsorship letter explaining the Plant Sale that she has presented to businesses. New England Wetlands will arrive on Thursday morning. Donna will speak with Kate about clearing out the areas at Holiday Brook Farm to make way for plant delivery. The Master Gardeners will have a table. Dicken will speak about biochar and Ambrose will speak about jumping worms. We will seek additional speakers. More empty boxes are needed from grocery stores.
c. No-Till – rentals are low this year. This fall, Ambrose has 4 rentals for the 5512 drill and 1 rental for the 5607 drill. Mike got the parts for renovating the larger drill. The cost for parts was close to $200.
d. FY25/26 B&I 'Urban Ag and Community Engagement' grant planning and implementation – there was no updated information on this topic.

8. 4:15 Supervisor Committees

a. Agroforestry Committee update – Max, Jill, and Ambrose met. They will invite Michael Fernandez to speak with us at September's meeting. Ambrose shared what the goals of the committee might be: it is a way to invite more people in an informal way i.e. through projects taking place on the land. For instance, can we help a nursery to distribute trees? It could be a way to partner with other groups. There are nurseries that are growing their agro forestry business. They also mentioned that DCR forester Tom Ryan is interested in attending future meetings.

9. 4:30 Supervisor/Staff Comments/ Announcements

a. We confirmed our next Supervisor meeting for September 11 at 5:30pm. Cynthia will be away Wednesday and Thursday this week.

10. 4:35 Motion to Adjourn

Ron made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4;38pm, seconded by Adam. There was a roll-call, and all were in favor.