



**PENNSYLVANIA FARMLAND**  
**PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION**  
**2019 SPRING BUSINESS MEETING**  
US Hotel, Hollidaysburg, PA, Blair County  
May 9, 2019

**ATTENDANCE**

**Executive Committee:**

Matt Knepper Lancaster County – President  
Ellen Dayhoff, Adams County – Vice President  
Maria Bentzoni, Northampton County – Secretary  
Donna Fisher, Blair County – Member at Large

**PDA - BFP Staff:**

Doug Wolfgang, Director, Bureau of Farmland Preservation  
Stephanie Zimmerman, Admin Officer II, Bureau of Farmland Preservation  
Dawn Patrick, Admin Officer II, Bureau of Farmland Preservation  
April Orwig, Admin Officer, II, Bureau of Farmland Preservation  
Andrea Reiner, Admin Officer I, Bureau of Farmland Preservation

**County Administrators and County Staff:**

Cindy Sanderson, Adams County	Mary Ann Bower, Clinton County
Mark Clowney, Adams County	Tracy Crawford, Crawford County
Jessica Schaub, Armstrong County	Dick Deiss, Crawford County
Joe Petrella, Beaver County	Douglas Beri, Indiana County
Vicki Ramsey, Beaver County	Angie Foltz, Lebanon County
John Akers, Bedford County	Diane Matthews-Gehringer, Lehigh County
Tami Hildebrand, Berks County	Donna Wright, Lehigh County
Kim Fies, Berks County	Cindy Kahley, Union County
Amanda Burkard-Sell, Berks County	Betty Reefer, Westmoreland County
Rich Huether, Blair County	Claire O'Brien, York County
Amy Kneller, Bradford County	
Geoff Shellington, Chester County	
Evan Martin, Chester County	

**Guests & Speakers:**

Caroline Wade, AFT  
Margot Mays, AFT  
Jeff Swinehart, Lancaster Farm Trust  
Sherri Clayton-Williams

**OPENING**

Matt Knepper, President, called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Matt Knepper introduced our speakers for the day.

## **ROLL CALL**

Maria Bentzoni did a roll call of the registered members. 17 voting members (three by proxy) were present, determining a quorum. *Ellen Dayhoff made a motion to accept the roll call, motion was seconded by Tami Hildebrand, all those in favor, none opposed, motion carried.*

## **MILESTONES/UPDATES**

1. Chester County noted they have reached their 500<sup>th</sup> farm, preserving over 40,000 acres. 2019 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their Open Space program.
2. Northampton County noted they will be reaching their 200<sup>th</sup> preserved farm in 2019.

## **LOCAL HERO AWARD**

The Local Hero Award was presented to Commissioner Terry Tomassetti, Blair County Land Preservation Board.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Matt Knepper presented the minutes from the 2018 Spring Meeting May 22, 2018, as sent.

*Joseph Petrella made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Donna Fisher seconded the motion, all those in favor, none opposed, motion carried.*

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report was provided to the membership by Matt Knepper in absence of the Treasurer. The current balance of the account as of the 5/3/19 submitted report is \$6,829.74, prior to the conference attendance deposit and expenses are completed. *Ellen Dayhoff made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, Betty Reefer seconded the motion, all those in favor, none opposed, motion carried.*

It was noted that our insurance premium is due. *Tami Hildebrand made a motion to pay the premium, Cindy Kahley seconded the motion, all those in favor, none opposed, motion carried.*

The membership was informed that Sarah Walters is stepping down as PFPA's treasurer effective 5/22/19. Matt Knepper opened the floor for nominations for volunteers for the treasurer's position. None were noted. Danielle Dobisch from Montgomery County has volunteered to become PFPA's treasurer, although not present at today's meeting. *Maria Bentzoni made a motion to accept Danielle Dobisch as PFPA's treasurer, Cindy Kahley seconded the motion, all those in favor, none opposed, motion carried.*

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Cindy Sanderson gave the membership report:

- 67 Counties in PA
- 58 PA counties with a preservation program
- 31 voting memberships
- 27 non-member counties
- 4 outside contributing memberships
- 2 outside membership sponsor
- 3 Member Emeritus Status

Ellen thanked Cindy Sanderson for putting together the membership report.

*Maria Bentzoni made a motion to accept the membership report, Ellen seconded the motion, all those in favor, none opposed, motion carried.*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS (See report on file)**

### **1. Executive Committee**

- A. After a short discussion regarding amendments to the bylaws, *Donna Fisher made a motion to amend the bylaws to allow for information to be sent out to allow the membership to vote via mail. The motion was amended to include electronic mail notifications. The motion was seconded by Joseph Petrella, all those in favor, none opposed, motion carried.*

### **2. Public Relations Committee**

- A. PFPA Website, Presented by Donna Fisher, Blair County. Donna Fisher stated if there is something PFPA members want placed on the website, send it to her and she will post it.
- B. PFPA Display/Ag Progress Days: Ag Progress Days will be held August 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. As we are every year, we are in need of volunteers. The Executive Committee discussed the option of us not being at APD, due to the lack of volunteers. The Executive Committee made the recommendation of PFPA not having a separate booth, but would ask the Bureau if we could merge our information somehow with theirs. Doug Wolfgang was asked if this could be a possibility. Donna Fischer explained how the Committee was going to get an information sheet from each county to be displayed. Betty Reefer asked if we could update the PFPA brochure, but it was stated the rack card was updated. Diane Matthews-Gehringer and Donna Wright offered to work with Maria Bentzoni on the Public Relations Committee regarding the updates for the display. *Joseph Petrella made a motion to approve the Public Relations Committee be approved to spend up to \$1,000.00 to create handout information and a promotional display to be used at APD and other events, Cindy Kahley seconded the motion, all those in favor, none opposed, motion carried.*
- C. Doug stated he would like to have members of PFPA be present at APD if we are going to share space with BFP. Further details will be communicated with BFP.

### **3. Conference/Workshop Committee**

- A. The 2019 fall meeting of PFPA will be held in conjunction with the October 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 State Board meeting. The Executive/Conference Committee opened the option for a county to step up to host the 2020 spring meeting. After a discussion, the membership agreed to continue holding the fall meeting in conjunction with the State Board meeting.
- B. It was suggested that we look into a conference call type meeting format that members can remote into to improve attendance.
- C. Maria Bentzoni asked the membership to consider volunteering to be on any of the various committees, as it seems it is the same people taking on the responsibilities.

### **4. Policy Committee**

- A. Please see attached Legislative Update submitted by Matt Knepper. (Attached for minute record.)

### **5. Executive Committee Wrap-up**

- A. No further updates from other committees.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. No new business was discussed.

## **PDA UPDATE**

Due to time constraints, an abbreviated update was given.

1. Current status of preserved land in PA: 5,494 farms equaling 566,305 in 58 counties. Counties should be encumbering 2018 funding. All 2018 funds must be encumbered by 12/31/18.
2. Compelling reasons to preserve farmland: economic impact, food supply, and climate change.
3. PA lost 6,000 farms and 400,000 acres from 2012 to 2017.
4. 2019 funding threshold: \$38 million, counties certified \$18.2 million.
5. High level issues: 1. Continue to preserve farms in advance of escalating real estate values and conversions of prime farmland to other uses. 2. Protecting the vast public investment in farms already preserved.
6. PA Farm Bill.
7. Issues facing individual counties.
8. Updates regarding PA Farmland

## **Round Table Discussions**

1. Farm Labor Housing: Problems with immigrant workers, H2A requirements are extremely restrictive regarding what is, and isn't, permitted pertaining to the seasonal workforce. How the permitted 2<sup>nd</sup> residential structure plays into an operation. Changes to the county's program can provide some relief. *Betty Reefer made a motion to support Adams County's proposal regarding housing of temporary seasonal workers, the motion was seconded by Donna Fisher. All those in favor, none opposed, motion carried.* Ellen Dayhoff requested a letter be sent from PFPA to Adams County showing PFPA support.
2. Berks County – Growth areas: Discussion on preserving land in designated growth areas/boundaries.
3. Drone use in counties: Currently Adams County is preparing to use drones to assist in inspections. It was discussed what all is involved in their use.

## **Reminders:**

The next meeting of the PA Farmland Preservation Association will be set for: Fall – October 10, 2019 in conjunction with the October State Board meeting. Details to follow.

*Maria Bentzoni made a motion to adjourn the business meeting; Ellen Dayhoff seconded the motion. All those in favor, motion carried. The business meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Bentzoni, Secretary