



PENNSYLVANIA FARMLAND
PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
2018 SPRING BUSINESS MEETING
Lakeview Farm, Dover, PA, York County
May 22, 2018

ATTENDANCE

Executive Committee:

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

PDA - BFP Staff:

Doug Wolfgang, Director, Bureau of Farmland Preservation
John Howard, Solicitor, 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
Nicole Bloom, Admin, Bureau of Farmland Preservation

County Administrators and County Staff:

Cindy Sanderson, Adams County
Mark Clowney, Adams County
Kelly Koch, Adams County
Joe Petrella, Beaver County
Vicki Ramsey, Beaver County
John Akers, Bedford County
Tami Hildebrand, Berks County
Kim Fies, Berks County
Amanda Burkard-Sell, Berks County
Rich Huether, Blair County
Amy Kneller, Bradford County
Geoff Shellington, Chester County
Bill Gladden, Chester County

Stephanie Williams, Cumberland County
Rochelle Barvinchack, Franklin County
Karoline Schmal, Franklin County
Chris Snyder, Juniata County
Kevin Baer, Lancaster County
June Mengel, Lancaster County
Angie Foltz, Lebanon County
Evan Makuvek, Monroe County
Danielle Dobisch, Montgomery County
Andrea Reiner, Schuylkill County
Patty McCandless, York County
Eric Naylor, York County
Dave Boose, York County

Guests & Speakers:

Jim Baird, AFT
Margot Mays, AFT
Kate McGraw, Cumberland County
Sean Kenny, Farm & Natural Lands Trust
Sally McMurry
Jeff Swinehart, Lancaster Farm Trust
Karen Martynick, Lancaster Farm Trust
York County. Commissioner Chris Reilly
Ralph McGregor, York County

Ken & Deb Snyder, York County
Kenetha Hansen, VP York C. Economic Alliance
Jedd Moncavage, Team Ag
Kelsey Miller, DCNR
Hathaway Jones, USDA-NRCS
Michael Albert, USDA-NRCS
Laura Brown, Chair of Silver Spring Twp LPB
Adrian Genberling, Chesapeake Conservancy
Casandra Palli, Chesapeake Conservancy

3. PFPA Display/Ag Progress Days

- A. Ag Progress Days will be held August 14 to 16th, 2018. We are in need of volunteers. The membership is asked to step up and volunteer to cover the stand. The cost of the stand is \$350. Sarah Walters from Centre County will be unavailable to close out the last two days, so volunteers are crucial. *Patty McCandless made a motion to approve the booth at APD, Ellen Dayhoff seconded the motion, all those in favor, none opposed, motion carried.*
- B. Sign up sheet will be emailed out closer to the event asking for volunteers for APD.
- C. Counties are still encouraged to bring their own county map for display.

4. Conference/Workshop Committee

- A. Blair County volunteered to host with Huntingdon County for Spring of 2019. *Tami Hildebrand made motion to accept hosting county, motion was seconded by Patty McCandless, all those in favor, none opposed, motion carried.*

5. Policy Committee

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

1. HB 1550 was reviewed (see attached report) – This Bill will:

- Change the language so the additional house can be “for the purpose of a residence for the landowner, an immediate family member or an employee” instead of being specifically for the landowner’s principal residence or housing for employees;
- Owner may relinquish their right to an additional house when they preserve the farm;
- Law shall permit the subdivision of such additional house

It is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee. No fiscal impact, needs to be moved to the Senate, contact your Legislators, needs any county with members on the House Appropriation List to please contact your Legislators.

2. SB 819 (previously) – Discussion regarding this proposed legislation. Counties review their own proposed agri-tourism regulations.

Ellen Dayhoff made a motion to oppose to SB 819 as it is currently written, Maria Bentzoni seconded the motion, all those in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

3. HB 1689 - Expands the current funding to Land Trusts to \$2.5 million to reimburse Land Trusts for the purchase of easements and \$500,000 for reimbursement of eligible expenses. Land Trusts can now ask for up to \$10,000 for reimbursement of incidental costs (up from \$5,000). This is to encourage more Land Trusts to preserve farmland as part of their conservation mission. There are 26 co-sponsors to the legislation; same standard as our county/state programs. Will require a private match equal to the amount of the reimbursement for the purchase of an easement, can be a bargain sale.

PFPA is currently opposed but without the draft proposal, it isn't right to make a motion on taking a position on this Bill. Perhaps we can have a special meeting in the attempt that the Bill moves on in the Committee.

6. Executive Committee Wrap-up

- A. No further updates from other committees.

- *Matt Knepper made the Motion from the membership sending a letter to Cumberland County in support of the McCormick farm, motion was seconded by Joe Petrella, all those in favor, none opposed, motion carried.*

PDA UPDATE

Due to time constraints, an abbreviated update was given.

1. Funding for 2018 is scheduled for \$37 million. \$25.5 million from cigarette tax and \$5 million increase to the Environmental Stewardship Fund. An increase of 18% from garbage hauler tipping fees and Marcellus Shale Funding. Counties should be encumbering 2017 funding. All 2017 funds must be encumbered by 12/31/18.
2. Regulations are currently under review and anticipate them to be given back for public comment and then inevitably have them submitted for approval. No anticipated timeline, perhaps 2019.
3. Stewardship and enforcement are important, workload shifting from preserving to enforcement, litigation, and enforcement.
4. Lack of a clear definition of Agri-tainment and compatible uses speaks to the issues that has been surfacing recently.
5. Eminent domain sliver takings have been occurring on an increasing basis, especially in the last 6 months.
6. Training and events: July 23rd Northern tier or Western PA, training for new administrators. June 7th Board meeting will be in Lehigh County to celebrate the State's 550,000 acres and the 30th anniversary of Lehigh County's program.

Presentations

1. Chesapeake Bay Initiative

Reminders:

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

Tami Hildebrand made a motion to adjourn the business meeting; Angie Foltz seconded the motion. All those in favor, motion carried. The business meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Bentzoni, Secretary