



PENNSYLVANIA FARMLAND
PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
2021 SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

Spring Virtual Conference Call
May 13, 2021

ATTENDANCE

Executive Committee:

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

PDA - BFP Staff:

Doug Wolfgang, Director, Bureau of Farmland Preservation
John Howard, Bureau of Farmland Preservation
Adam Morris, 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

County Administrators and County Staff:

Cindy Sanderson, Adams County	Dick Deiss, Crawford County
Mark Clowney, Adams County	Tracy Crawford, Crawford County
Kelly Koch, Adams County	Rochelle Barvinchack, Franklin County
Sherri Clayton-Williams, Adams County	Chris Snyder, Juniata County
Jessica Schaub, Armstrong County	Diane Mathews-Gehringer, Lehigh County
Marge White, Beaver County	Ryan Hill, Monroe County
Tami Hildebrand, Berks County	Elizabeth Emlen, Montgomery County (ME)
Kim Fies, Berks County	Anne Leavitt-Gruberger, Montgomery County
Amanda Burkard-Sell, Berks County	Jessica Yoder, Pike County
Rich Huether, Blair County	Brittney Moore, Schuylkill County
Amy Kneller, Bradford County	Lynn Broschart, Sullivan County
Sheryl Kelly, Butler County	David Beichler, Susquehanna County
Diana Griffith, Centre County	Cindy Kahley, Union County
Caroline Fritschle, Chester County	Caroline Sinchar, Washington County
Evan Martin, Chester County	Betty Reefer, Westmoreland County
Mark Kimmel, Cumberland County	Patty McCandless, York County
Kevin Baer, Lancaster County	David Boose, York County
June Mengel, Lancaster County	Marty Druck, York County
Noelle Fortna, Lancaster County	

Guests & Speakers:

Andy Loza, WeConservePA	Agronomics Plus, David Kann
Carol Greysaw, WeConservePA	Sean Kenney, Farm & Nat'l Lands Trust
Kerry Golden, Ag & Rural Affairs Com.	Andrew Szwak, Land Trust Alliance
Mike Anderson, Spatial IT	Karen Gardner, Nat'l Young Farms Coalition
Leslie Cote	

OPENING

Matt Knepper, President, called the meeting to order at 9:12 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 entire membership. 23 voting members (four 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. York County noted they have received a dedicated .10 mill revenue tax specifically for Farmland Preservation. York has added a new Farmland Preservation position staff member for monitoring easements.

LOCAL HERO AWARD

None presented for this meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Matt Knepper presented the minutes from the Fall 10/10/19 meeting and the notes from the 2020 Fall Conference 10/21/2020.

Ellen Dayhoff made the motion to accept the minutes and notes as presented, Cindy Kahley seconded the motion, majority of those in favor, one abstention, motion carried.

Due to the difficulty in conducting motions, it was agreed upon by the membership that all voting on remaining items would be completed by Google survey and attached to the minutes for record keeping.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was provided to the membership by Stephanie Williams. The current balance of the account as of the 4/21/21 submitted report is \$9,040.72 with pending transactions listed. There was a question regarding bank fees, it was determined that is the bank's policy and for convenience purposes for the Treasurer, it was agreed to continue to pay the bank fees. *Donna Fisher made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, Tami Hildebrand 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
- 28 voting memberships
- 30 non-member counties
- 4 outside contributing memberships
- 2 outside membership sponsor
- 3 Member Emeritus Status

Ellen thanked Cindy Sanderson for compiling the membership report.

Maria Bentzoni presented to the membership the request to nominate Joseph Petrella to be nominated as Member Emeritus in honor of his dedicated service to PFPA and our membership.

Ellen Dayhoff made a motion to accept the nomination for Joe Petrella as well as the membership report, Patty McCandless seconded the motion, all those in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (See report on file)

1. Executive Committee

A. Item discussed under Conference Committee.

2. Public Relations Committee

A. None.

3. Conference/Workshop Committee

A. Ellen Dayhoff presented to the membership the creation of the Conference Committee Coordinator position, as Cindy Sanderson will soon be retiring and vacating these duties. The job description was reviewed by the Executive Committee and the job description was distributed to the membership for their consideration. Matt thanked Cindy for all of her years of dedication to PFPA and the Executive Committee and the hard work she has continued to put in for all of these years. Matt stated that she is and has been valuable asset to the membership and that she is appreciated.

Discussion regarding the position:

- i. There were questions posed about how taxes would be handled for the position, as this would be a paid position. At the end of the year, a 1099 form would be issued and the employee holding the position would be responsible for the income earned. Most likely the employee would have to file a 1026-2 to the IRS as an independent contractor, not an employee.

On a motion made by Cindy Kahley, amending the job description to clarify the income tax issue, to move to approve the job description. The motion was seconded by Patty McCandless, all those in favor, motion carried.

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. *On a motion made by Cindy Kahley, to approve the Executive Committee report, the motion was seconded by Patty McCandless, all those in favor, motion carried.*

OLD BUSINESS

1. None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. No new business was discussed.

PRESENTATION: Michael Anderson, Spatial IT; Ranking your Farms Utilizing GIS by Michael Anderson.

1. Diane Matthews-Gehring asked if this is something that should be initiated by the State? Doug commented that yes, this could be standardized for use by all counties since it is web based. The State should be included in such an option regarding the design and usage.

2. Maria Bentzoni suggested that we poll the membership at a later time to determine the amount of interest in a full presentation by Mike Anderson regarding this option.
3. Mike Anderson stated all the data is brought in from the web browser and the intent is to make it consistent throughout the servicing counties.
4. A full presentation is being offered in a separate web meeting for the membership, should they decide to pursue this further.

PDA UPDATE

Due to time constraints, an abbreviated update was given.

1. Current status of preserved land in PA: The State program is entering its 32nd year and will be hitting the 600,000 acres preserved milestone in August. Information will be sent out to the membership to attend the celebration in Berks County.
2. 2021 funding threshold: \$38 million, counties certified \$16.4 million. Doug stated how proud he was of all of the counties for their dedication to their preservation efforts during the continuing Covid crisis.
3. The Federal program has received seven applications totaling 480 acres in the amount of \$760,000 committed. Counties can take farms out of ranking order if they are using Federal funding.
4. The RCPP program had \$10 million in funding and has received \$39 million in local contribution for areas along the Kittatinny Ridge, Central PA and the Chesapeake Bay.
5. Economic Impact Study was distributed to the membership to review and will be kept on file in E-Records for reference.
6. Solar Demand – The State is concerned with the compatible use with preserved farmland. Doug had provided information to CCAP regarding the use of prime soils and conflicting uses related to solar. Maria Bentzoni suggested a meeting with the Executive Committee to discuss this further.
7. BFP staff are making further progress on the PA Farmland website to include financial record keeping and tracking. The hope is to better process the application from submission to close out.
8. Regulations are continuing to be reviewed and hope to have something concrete by next year.
9. Ag Security Areas – removing parcels can be done by the municipalities at the 7-year review if it no longer meets the criteria.
10. Farm Vitality Grant - \$1 million dollars was made available until it is expended, for business transition or succession planning.
11. Clean and Green Act 319- use values were sent out to counties by May 1st.
12. Representative Stanball introduced Bills to amend the ASA and Admin Code that would exempt condemnation for highway improvements but condemnation would require ALCAB review.

Round Table Discussions

1. Westmoreland County Case re: additional residential structure constructed in an existing barn and subdivision of an existing easement, would that allow for an additional residence to be constructed. Court case details attached to minutes for record.
2. Discussion regarding having a court reporter present for board meeting and hearings to correctly reflect discussions and decisions made at county board meetings and other hearings.
3. Cumberland County program change: Intergrading land use planning into farmland preservation efforts. Presentation included with minutes for record.

Reminders:

The next meeting of the PA Farmland Preservation Association will be set for: Fall – October 10, 2021 in conjunction with the October State Board meeting, possibly. Details to follow.

Elections will be held at the Fall 2021 meeting. Anyone wanting to hold a position on the Executive Committee is to notify one of the Committee members on the Nominating Committee.

Ellen Dayhoff made a motion to adjourn the business meeting; Tami Hildebrand seconded the motion. All those in favor, motion carried. The business meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Bentzoni, Secretary