

MEETING MINUTES
BUTLER COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

Farm Service Agency, 625 Evans City Road, Butler 16001

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022 – 7:00PM

Members In Attendance	Members Absent	Visitors in Attendance
Ken Moniot, Chairman	Commissioner Kimberly D. Geyer – Ex Officio	
Bill Duncan, Vice-Chairman		
Rob Burr, Secretary		
Larry Baumgartel, Treasurer		
Luke Fritz		
John Allen		
Eugene Bergbigler		
Alvin Vogel		
Rick Stuchal		Staff in Attendance
		Sheryl Kelly

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Ken Moniot on Thursday, June 23, 2022. (The April and May meetings were cancelled.) A quorum was present.

1. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

2. Commissioner’s Report

- Commissioner Geyer unfortunately could not attend and there was no Commissioner’s report.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Chairman Moniot asked for a motion to approve the March meeting minutes. There was a motion made by Secretary Rob Burr to accept the minutes with a second made by Vice-Chairman Bill Duncan. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

4. Old Business

- **2022 #1 Flinner, 2022 #2 Kradel and 2022 #3 Hartzell** – Sheryl reported that the appraisals for Flinner and Kradel should arrive by the end of the month for consideration at the July meeting. The Hartzell appraisal will be completed after that.

- **Allen (2021 Clinton Twp #1)** – The land owner’s appraisal was reviewed by Sheryl after receiving some training from the state. Although a couple of minor corrections were needed, the amount stayed the same. Using the state’s calculation worksheet for an offer between the Board appraisal and owner’s appraisal, the amount for a final offer came to \$3,839.50 per acre. An offer was made to the Allens conditional upon the state’s review and approval of the offer. They have accepted this offer.

- A motion was made by Alvin Vogel to proceed with a survey and remainder of the purchase process. There was a second made by Rick Stuchal. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- **Hebda (2022 Clinton Township #1)** – Vice-Chairman Bill Duncan reported that Clinton Township is giving Ms. Hebda until the end of the day on Friday, July 22 before the next Ag Preservation Board meeting to decide if she wants to proceed with a possible easement purchase and to submit her \$2,500 appraisal deposit.

- **Preserved Farm Signs** – The Board discussed the proposal of purchasing signs for preserved farms to display and considered, along with other proposals, a submission from the Pa. Department of Corrections through their inmate trade learning program. Although it may vary slightly because of a time limit on the proposal, the Board can purchase 100 signs that are 18” x 24” for \$29.97 each. Sheryl will check to be sure they are double-sided and see if we can get funding for the purchase.

- A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Bill Duncan with a second by Treasurer Larry Baumgartel to purchase 100 signs as long as funding is available and that they are double-sided. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

5. New Business

- **Program Guide** – Sheryl had sent draft copies of an Easement Purchase Program Guide to Board members for review. The Board discussed changes / corrections and Sheryl will wait for some additional comments plus input from the state and the County Solicitor before making final changes.

- **Guideline Change** – The Board discussed the fact that the Butler County program guidelines do not have a time limit for submitting an appraisal deposit after being notified that they have been chosen for possible easement purchase. This will need to be submitted for State Board approval and Sheryl will submit.

- There was a motion made by Treasurer Larry Baumgartel with a second by Luke Fritz to amend the county guidelines and set a 60-day time limit, from the date an applicant is notified by the Board that they have been chosen for possible easement purchase, in order to submit their required appraisal deposit as established in the Butler County Agricultural Preservation Program Guidelines. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- **Senate Bill 64** – Discussion was brought up by Vice-Chairman Duncan regarding this senate bill. Sheryl responded to a recent survey of county coordinators sent out from the state Farmland Preservation Office and she responded that the Butler County Board is opposed to this bill. It has been reported that most other counties are opposed as well. The Board asked that an opposition letter be sent by Sheryl to Representative Marci Mustello, voting as a member of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee which unanimously voted for this bill, along with all other legislators of the county.

6. Adjourn

Chairman Moniot called for a motion to adjourn. There was a motion made by Vice-Chairman Duncan with a second by Treasurer Baumgartel. All were in favor and the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next Meeting:

July 28, 2022 at the

Farm Service Agency Building, 625 Evans City Road, Butler, PA 16001

Respectfully submitted by Sheryl Kelly for Board Secretary Rob Burr.