

MEETING MINUTES
BUTLER COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

Farm Service Agency, 625 Evans City Road, Butler 16001

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022 – 7:00PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Ken Moniot on Thursday, July 28, 2022. A quorum was present.

1. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

2. Commissioner’s Report

- Commissioner Geyer reported on the following items:

- The Board of Commissioners will provide \$47,422.37 to the Agricultural Preservation Board from their Legacy Fund (an increase from last year) as matching funds for the state farmland preservation program.
- The Board met with Pa. Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding to visit local community gardens as part of a new statewide grant program for “urban” farms. They visited gardens at Butler Catholic Elementary School, Summit Elementary, and the Butler School District and he was impressed with their efforts. These programs are designed to teach children how to grow gardens.
- Commissioners met with Butler County 4-H and Penn State Extension representatives, who at that time were preparing for the Butler Fair and are now preparing for the Butler Farm Show.

- The Commissioners went the Washington D.C. last weekend to meet with former President Trump and his cabinet members who are still working together. He discussed crime, challenges, policies and policies on putting America first.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Chairman Moniot asked for a motion to approve the June meeting minutes. There was a motion made by Vice-Chairman Bill Duncan to accept the minutes with a second made by Alvin Vogel. 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 appraisal for Flinner has not yet been received.
- The Kradel appraisal was received and Sheryl reviewed it using the checklist the state provided. Board members spent time during the meeting reviewing the appraisal. Per Chairman Moniot's request, there was a motion made by Luke Fritz to make the suggested easement value offer of \$3,464 to Mr. Kradel contingent on the state's review and acceptance of the appraised value. There was a second made by Treasurer Larry Baumgartel. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- Allen (2021 Clinton Twp #1) and Hebda (2022 Clinton Township #1)

- Sheryl reported that the Allen farm is currently being surveyed.
- Hebda has withdrawn from the program.

- Preserved Farm Signs

- Sheryl checked with the State Department of Corrections and the price of a double-sided sign is \$46.56 for 100 signs. The Board agreed per their vote in June to proceed with the purchase of 100 signs. Commissioner Geyer reported that the Board of Commissioners will pay for those signs. The Board asked Sheryl to also proceed with a press release when the signs are delivered.

- Senate Bill 64

- Alvin Vogel reported that he spoke with Senator Elder Vogel and was told that this bill will not move further. There was a misunderstanding over unused funding remaining each year and it was not realized that this is redistributed to counties the subsequent year as part of the agricultural preservation program. Sheryl had sent the opposition letters out to all local legislators.

5. New Business

- Powell Farm

- The Board discussed Cranberry Township's proposal to possibly create a demonstration farm on the preserved Powell Farm with passive recreation areas linking it to a nearby park. There was much discussion by the Board regarding the purpose of the state agricultural preservation program and the required county criteria for part-time off season minor and rural enterprises. As presented, the Board felt that the proposal does not meet the required criteria, nor the overall purpose of the agricultural preservation program. They asked Sheryl to write a letter to the attorney for the estate to this effect with a motion made by Alvin Vogel and a second by Treasurer Baumgartel. All were in favor.

- Clinton Township

- Vice-Chairman Bill Duncan reported that there could be an upcoming easement donation on a sizeable farm in Clinton Township by the next meeting, for the Board's consideration.

6. Adjourn

Chairman Moniot called for a motion to adjourn. There was a motion made by Treasurer Baumgartel with a second by Rick Stuchal. All were in favor and the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Next Meeting:

August 25, 2022 at the

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

Respectfully submitted by Sheryl Kelly for Board Secretary Rob Burr.