

MEETING MINUTES
BUTLER COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

Farm Service Agency, 625 Evans City Road, Butler 16001

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022 – 7:00PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Ken Moniot on Thursday, January 27, 2022. A quorum was present.

1. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary

- A motion was made by Rob Burr to keep the same officers as last year, with Bill Duncan as Vice-Chairman, Larry Baumgartel as Treasurer, and Rob Burr as Secretary, The was a second made by Rick Stuchal. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

2. Commissioner's Report

- Commissioner Geyer is in Harrisburg and sent a report that Sheryl read as follows:

1. The Farm Town Hall will be February 23rd from 6-8pm at the Vagabond Center in Lyndora. The agenda is forthcoming.
2. Penn Vest reached out to county commissioners and because of the success of the county's infrastructure bank program, they are willing to add an additional tool to the county's infrastructure bank program for municipalities that will not exist anywhere else in the commonwealth (they told us that). Penn Vest is willing to give a municipality 20 years for a low

interest loan for any water, sewer, or storm water management project in Butler County whereas the county's infrastructure bank program's loans are over the course of 10 years. So now, municipalities will have two options 10 or 20 years if they wish to borrow at 1% or less for a water, sewer, or storm water project. This is timely given the fact that DEP via Act 34 is prohibiting on-lot sewer technologies for the next several years for land development and this often affects rural farmland subdivisions.

3. Ken Moniot was approved as Chairman of the Farmland Board at the January 19th Board of Butler County Commissioners public meeting. Congrats to Ken!!! Thank you for your service!!

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Chairman Moniot asked for a motion to approve the November meeting minutes. (The December meeting was cancelled.) There was a motion made by Treasurer Larry Baumgartel with a second made by Luke Fritz. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

4. Old Business

- **2021 #1 Maple Shade** – Sheryl reported that the Maple Shade is complete for state board consideration except for the title work which should arrive soon from Jim Coulter. It should be on their April agenda.

- **2021 #2 Pizor**– The Board reviewed the self-contained appraisal completed for this farm which NRCS had recently approved following a required correction.

- There was a motion made by Luke Fritz to offer a flat amount of \$107,500 to the Pizors. (This was the total approved by NRCS.) There was a second made by Vice-Chairman Bill Duncan. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- There was a motion made by Rick Stuchal to have a survey completed for the Pizor property. There was a second by Treasurer Larry Baumgartel. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- **2021 Clinton Township #2 farm** – Sheryl reported that the appraisal being completed by Ron Benson has been slightly delayed. The board discussed waiting until it was fully completed before voting on anything.

- There was a motion made by Rick Stuchal to take no action until the full appraisal has been received by the Board. There was a second by Vice-Chairman Bill Duncan. All were in favor and the motion was approved. John Allen abstained from this vote.

5. New Business

- **2022 Application Round**– Sheryl reported that all farms that were not funded have been carried over for 2022 and to date, three new farm applications have been received but at least two or three more

are expected by the 31st. There was discussion on whether a farm can apply if they are in the process of having their acreage added to a township's agricultural security area or have a Conservation Plan that is being completed but not yet complete. It was determined that because of the way the law is worded (and there are strict requirements that must be met to be added to an ASA – plus, a farm not meeting those requirements can't be preserved through the county program), a farm must be formally enrolled in the ag security area in order to apply. There can be some leniency with conservation plans since these are written specifically for each farm and there are no requirements that must be met to have one completed.

6. Adjourn

Chairman Moniot called for a motion to adjourn. There was a motion made by Rick Stuchal with a second by Secretary Rob Burr. All were in favor and the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next Meeting:

February 24, 2022 at the

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

Respectfully submitted by Sheryl Kelly for Board Secretary Rob Burr.