

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**BUTLER COUNTY**  
**AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD**

Farm Service Agency, 625 Evans City Road, Butler 16001

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023 – 7:00PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Ken Moniot on Thursday, March 23, 2023. A quorum was present.

**1. Public Comment**

- There was no public comment.

**2. Commissioner’s Report**

- Commissioner Geyer reported on the following:

- The Butler County Conservation District will receive \$2 million over the next couple of years as part of the state’s Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program and they are in the process of accepting applications from Butler County farmers. If anyone is interested they can contact the Conservation District Office or Commissioner Geyer’s office.
- May 13 will be plow day at the Butler County Community Gardens. In the one day since applications were opened for the community plot requests, 36 of the 54 spaces have been assigned to gardeners.
- Butler Catholic School has a garden and chickens for educational purposes. Summit and Connoquenessing Elementary Schools also have gardens. There are several church gardens that raise food for food pantries and there is a “food cart” that travels throughout Butler County distributing free produce raised in the gardens.

- Commissioner Geyer sits on the County Commissioner’s Association of Pa’s (CCAP) Energy, Environment & Land Use Committee. They are working with Senator Yaw’s office to assist with a Pennsylvania bill that will regulate the decommissioning of solar farms when they are no longer used. Currently, municipalities throughout the state either have no decommissioning requirements or there is a patchwork of regulations through local ordinances.

### **3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Chairman Moniot asked if the Board reviewed the February meeting minutes and if there were any comments or corrections needed and if not, for a motion to approve. There was a motion made by Treasurer Larry Baumgartel to accept the minutes with a second made by Secretary Rob Burr. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

### **4. Old Business**

#### **- 2022 #1 Flinner and 2022 #3 Hartzell**

- Sheryl reported that the Flinner survey has been received and all paperwork is being updated to reflect the correct acreage.
- The state had some questions about comparables for the Hartzell appraisal and Sheryl is waiting for the appraiser to address those questions.
- Appraisal deposits have been received for the Misera (2023 #2) and Edwards (Clinton 2023 #1) farms with the deposit from the Graham (2023 #1) farm not yet received. There is a sixty calendar day deadline from the date of landowner notification for that deposit to be received. Appraiser Ron Benson has accepted and is getting started on Misera and Sheryl is waiting to hear if he can / will accept the Edwards appraisal job. If not, the backup appraiser will be asked.

#### **- Powell Farm Update**

- Chairman Moniot updated the Board on his attendance with Rob Burr and Rick Stuchal of Cranberry Township’s “Powell Farm Preservation Preview.” There was discussion on the requirements of the Deed of Easement, Conservation Plan, the county’s Rural Enterprise requirements in Appendix N from the county guidelines, follow-up monitoring and the steering committee the township will form to guide the farm moving forward.

### **5. New Business**

- John Allen reported that he has installed signs on his preserved farm parcels and with the Board’s agreement, Sheryl will check into the possibility of getting one-sided signs, whether we can get them with pre-drilled holes, and whether farms can get more than one sign (additional signs besides the first free sign will be at the expense of the landowner).

## **6. Adjourn**

Chairman Moniot called for a motion to adjourn. There was a motion made by Treasurer Baumgartel with a second by Luke Fritz. All were in favor and the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

**Next Meeting:**

**April 27, 2023** at the

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

Respectfully submitted by Sheryl Kelly for Board Secretary Rob Burr.