

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

Farm Service Agency, 625 Evans City Road, Butler 16001

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022 – 7:00PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Chairman Ken Moniot on Thursday, March 24, 2022. A quorum was present.

**1. Public Comment**

- There was no public comment.

**2. Commissioner’s Report**

- Commissioner Geyer reported that the Board of Commissioners has just returned from Harrisburg, having attended the County Commissioners of Pennsylvania (CCAP) convention which was very productive and informative. Election issues are a statewide problem and there are a lot of problems getting bills moving forward in Harrisburg. Commissioner Geyer serves on the Energy, Environment and Land Use Committee and she asked that if anyone ever has any issues or questions they would like addressed to please let her know. The county has held its monthly municipal meeting with Butler County municipalities and Penn State Extension gave a good presentation on things they can offer. The Commissioners continue to work on many local issues and Butler County seems to be in a good place compared to some other counties in the state.

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

- Chairman Moniot asked for a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. The meeting had been postponed until March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Luke Fritz brought up a mistake in the minutes regarding a board member motion who was not in attendance at the last meeting. There was a motion made by Secretary Rob Burr to accept the minutes as corrected per Luke's comment with a second made by Treasurer Larry Baumgartel. All were in favor and the motion was approved. Sheryl will make that correction to the minutes.

### **4. Old Business**

- **2021 #1 Maple Shade and 2021 #2 Pizor**— Both farms have had all required documents accepted by the state's Office of Farmland Preservation and both farms will appear on the April agenda of the State Board for consideration of easement purchase and hopeful approval.

- **2021 Clinton Township #2 farm** – Sheryl reported that the Allens have rejected the Board's appraisal and have turned in their own appraisal for consideration. This appraisal has been sent to the state but has not yet been reviewed by them for accuracy.

- There was a motion made by Vice-Chairman Bill Duncan to make the revised offer to the Allens, based on the state's calculation sheet using both the Board's appraisal and the Allen's appraisal, after this has been reviewed. All were in favor and the motion was approved. John Allen abstained from this vote.

- **Preserved Farm Signs** – The Board discussed the possibility of getting signs for the county's preserved farms. John Allen has assisted in getting some prices and Sheryl had rough estimate prices from three local companies, running from about \$50-\$80. The Board also came up with a rough design and wording that Sheryl will work on. Commissioner Geyer will check on various sources of possible funding.

- **2022 #1 Flinner, 2022 #2 Kradel and 2022 #3 Hartzell** – Sheryl reported that all three farms have submitted their \$2,500 appraisal deposits. The first two farms have stated that they do not wish to pursue federal funding, however the Hartzells are considering it. Sheryl has been in touch with Andy and NRCS who thinks this farm would be an excellent candidate for federal funding. Attorney Jim Coulter does not believe, without conducting a full title search however, that there would be any title issues that would hinder a federal application. Sheryl has received word from the state that there is 2022 NRCS funding left over that we could apply for, for this farm.

- **Hebda (2022 Clinton Township #1)** – the Board reviewed all information that has been submitted for this application and completed the ranking. This farm will hopefully utilize the remaining 2021 funding that was allocated to Clinton Township.

- There was a motion made by Luke Fritz with a second by Secretary Rob Burr to proceed

with exploring an easement purchase on this farm. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

## **5. New Business**

- With sadness, Commissioner Geyer brought the passing of Harold Foertsch to the attention of the Board.

## **6. Adjourn**

Chairman Moniot called for a motion to adjourn. There was a motion made by John Allen with a second by Luke Fritz. All were in favor and the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

**Next Meeting:**

**April 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.