

**ADAMS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**March 4, 2026 at 7:00 pm**

Attendance:

***Members - Attending In-person:***

Dave Wenk, Dave Boyer, Ben Mearns, George Weikert, Tyler Nell, Sidney Kuhn and Doyle Waybright (arrived at 7:04 pm)

***Members - Attending by phone:***

Craig Yingling and George Taughinbaugh

***Absent:***

None

***Staff-Attending In-person:***

Ellen Dayhoff, Mark Clowney, Kelly Koch and LeighAnn Abraham

***Staff-Attending by phone:***

None

***Guests:*** None

The March 4, 2026 meeting of the Adams County Agricultural Land Preservation Board commenced at 7:00 pm in the Planning Conference Room at the Adams County Agricultural & Natural Resources Center. Mr. Wenk called the meeting to order at Mr. Yingling's request.

I. Board Business

A. Approval of January 7, 2026 Meeting Minutes

**Mr. Wenk suggested we include the names of those Board members who voted in favor of the Welty Farm wetland restoration project in the minutes as we listed those Board members who opposed. The Board members who voted in favor of the Welty wetlands restoration project are: Mr. Wenk, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Nell, Mr. Taughinbaugh, and Ms. Kuhn.**

**Mr. Boyer made a motion to approve the January 7, 2026, ACALPB minutes with the Board members listed in the minutes who voted favorably for the Welty wetland restoration project; Mr. Weikert seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Mearns abstained from voting as he was not present at the meeting. Mr. Waybright arrived after the motion was made (but was made aware of the motion at the end of the meeting).**

B. Public Comments/Updates/Announcements

1. Application Round 17 – Public meetings April 8<sup>th</sup> 1 pm and 7 pm.  
Round opens April 13 to June 12.

- C. New Business
  - 1. 2026 PA Allocation of Funds  
Ellen reviewed the 2026 PA Allocation of Funds. County appropriation is \$562,675. State funds total \$1,243,515.37. At the end of 2025, Adams County ranks sixth in the State of acres preserved.
- D. Legislative Updates/Issues
  - 1. PA Farm Bureau Updates (Mark Clowney, Dave Wenk) – Mark and Dave attended the March 2026 legislative update on Monday. The agenda topics included Glyphosate, legacy planning, drones and cover crop seeding, data centers, and the legislative updates for both state and federal. Mark will email information from the meeting regarding State and federal legislation.
  - 2. HB 1059 (non-profits) and HB 2584 (smaller tracts) – no update.

II. Updates

- A. Township Updates – no updates
- B. LCAC Updates (Mark) – Annual dinner is March 12th at the Gettysburg Beyond the Battle Museum on the Biglerville Road.
- C. Parks, Recreation and Green Space Grant Program –  
  
There are five outstanding green space grant awards for the Land Conservancy. Due to the County using zero based budgeting, this allocated funding will need to be spent before more money will be available for land projects. The PRGS Committee recommended increasing the maximum grant for park and recreation projects to \$50,000 (\$25,000 increase). These funds come from a designated Act 13 account and not the County budget, so funds are available. This still needs to be discussed and approved by the Commissioners if it is to move forward.
- D. Ag Discovery Center (Mark) – Tom O’Connor, Executive Director, resigned. Adams County Economic Alliance is temporarily assuming responsibilities.

***No Executive Session***

- III. Round 15 - Please refer to Round 15 Financial/Status Report
  - A. Gladfelter settlement March 10
- IV. Round 16 - Please refer to Round 16 Financial/Status Report
  - A. HSF/Trotalong (XVI-48) – Settlement March 10
  - B. Brown Estate Funds – discussion and ACTION

Keller farm (XV-15) is still having issues with their subordination. Ellen suggested we hold the money that was set aside for this farm until we rank Round 17 farms. We can see if there is another farm in Mt. Joy township that applies in Round 17. The Board is in agreement to hold the funds for approximately six months.

- C. Sentz Farm (XVI-53) – start appraisal process
- D. Myers Farm (XVI-37) - start appraisal process
- E. Heller Farm (XVI-42) - start appraisal process

**Ms. Kuhn made a motion for Ellen to start the appraisal process on the next three farms (Sentz, Myers and Heller); Mr. Nell seconded. Motion carried.**

**Mr. Boyer made a motion for Ellen to proceed with the next few farms (Jeffcoat, Flanders, Miller) if the previously noted farms do not wish to proceed; seconded by Mr. Yingling. Motion carried.**

V. Inspections, Transfers, Subdivision, Rural Enterprise Applications, Other Issues

- A. Welty Farm – wetland restoration – Update

This is still being discussed at the Commissioners' level.

- B. Tumbleweed/Roy Pool – Rural Enterprise Request – review and ACTION

Tumbleweed submitted a Rural Enterprise application for the construction of a pole barn to sell their beef and produce. The application was reviewed. Mr. Waybright is concerned about the location, that it should be closer to the road and not take as much farmland out of production.

**Mr. Boyer made a motion to approve the application for the Tumbleweed Rural Enterprise pending approval of the pole barn's final location; seconded by Mr. Mearns. Motion carried.**

- C. Bear Mountain Realty – Rural Enterprise Request – review and ACTION

Existing septic for their migrant housing is failing at 570 Potato Road. The request is to construct a new septic system for the current labor housing that remains on this property. It is estimated that .22 acres will be taken out of production after completion.

**Mr. Boyer made a motion to approve the application for the Bear Mountain Realty Rural Enterprise; seconded by Mr. Weikert. Motion carried.**

- D. Roberts Farm – inquiry regarding possible future subdivision – update/discussion

Ellen reviewed prior discussion on the possibility of preserving the Roberts' 45.72-acre farm, which adjoins their preserved 103.3-acre farm and

subsequently subdividing both of these parcels into equal acreage for each brother. The Board felt it was not in the best interest of the preservation program to change the guidelines to accommodate smaller subdivisions. Ellen will reach out to the Roberts family.

**Mr. Yingling made a motion to deny Roberts' request to change the Preservation Program Subdivision Guidelines; Mr. Weikert second. Motion carried.**

VIII. Program Guidelines

A. Subdivision Guidelines – discussion and ACTION

Ellen reviewed proposed changes to the subdivision guidelines. Changes are to incorporate Act 33 language regarding 2-acre subdivisions, added the Applicability paragraph showing each version and recording information from past Guidelines and clarified the annexation of parcels between two preserved farms.

**Mr. Waybright made a motion to accept the proposed Subdivision Guideline changes pending our solicitor's review and commissioners' approval; seconded by Ms. Kuhn. Motion carried.**

B. Unique Purchase Situations - Update

Prior approval by Board pending State and Solicitor review and Commissioner approval. The State has reviewed, and these changes will go before the April 9<sup>th</sup> State Board meeting for formal approval. They have also been presented to the solicitor and commissioners for final approval.

IX. Adjourn

**Mr. Boyer made a motion to adjourn the March 4, 2026 ACALPB meeting at 8:34 pm; Mr. Weikert seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
*LeighAnn Abraham, Secretary*