

ADAMS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD
Minutes of Regular Meeting
July 5, 2023, 7:30 pm

Attendance:

Members -Attending In-person:

Craig Yingling, Doyle Waybright, George Taughinbaugh, Dave Wenk, Dave Boyer and Sidney Kuhn

Members -Attending by phone:

George Weikert

Absent:

Chad Collie and Ben Mearns

Staff -Attending in-person:

Ellen Dayhoff, Mark Clowney, Kelly Koch and LeighAnn Abraham

Staff -Attending by phone:

None

Staff - Absent:

None

Guests:

None

The July 5, 2023 meeting of the Adams County Agricultural Land Preservation Board commenced at 7:31 pm in the Planning Conference Room at the Adams County Agricultural & Natural Resources Center.

I. Board Business

A. Approval of March 1, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Weikert made a motion to approve the March 1, 2023, ACALPB minutes; Mr. Waybright seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

B. Public Comments

1. Russell Williams was scheduled to attend but could not make it. Hanover Shoe Farms Celebration on July 18, 2023, 9–11 am. Ellen reviewed a tentative agenda.

2. Solar Farms Impact on Agriculture in Mount Joy Township – students from three PA colleges met with Andy Merkel regarding a case study they are conducting involving solar impact on agriculture in Mount Joy Township.

C. New Business
No new business.

D. Legislative Updates

1. PA Farm Bureau Updates

a. Mr. Wenk noted that the Governor of PA recently addressed the PA State Farm Bureau annual legislative meeting in Harrisburg. He said that not many governors have done this in the past. Farm Bureau was pleased with the budget as it related to agriculture.

b. Russell Redding was unanimously confirmed by the Senate to serve as the Secretary of Agriculture for a fourth term.

c. Clean Water Act – Court adopted a more stringent test for what qualifies as an “adjacent wetland”. The Clean Water Act applies to wetlands that are indistinguishable from waters of the United States” because they have a “continuous surface connection” with a larger body of water.

d. House Bill 157 permanently establishes the PA Preferred Organic trademark. It passed through the House unanimously and is now in the Senate.

e. Senate Bill 153 which ensures that milk haulers can travel on highways during a declaration of disaster emergency, passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee. It is now on the Senate calendar for final consideration.

f. Recent introduction of HR 1147 Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act – This bill would allow whole, reduced-fat, low-fat and fat-free flavored and unflavored milk in school cafeterias.

II. Updates

A. Township Updates – Mt. Joy still has some interest in preservation.

B. LCAC Updates – no news

C. Parks, Recreation and Green Space Grant Program Update

1. Kelly met with four entities and 1-2 more have expressed interest. Applications will be accepted up to August 31, 2023.

D. Eisenhower Drive Extension Project – PennDOT meeting scheduled July 10, 2023.

E. PA Ag Discovery Center – Feasibility Study is almost complete. Sherri is talking to Commissioners and Adams County Economic Development about getting the Planning Office involved in the process again, since we were such a large part of the successful bid to have them decide to locate in Adams County.

Executive Session Opened.

III. Round 14 - Please refer to Round 14 Financial/Status Report

- A. XIV-54 waiting on survey (triangular piece that is actually part of another preserved farm.) deed was not recorded correctly.
- B. XIV-41 – in process to State.
- C. XIV-11 – 60.018 acres; in process. Waiting on title information from Campbell & King's office.
- D. XIV-25 – Signing Agreement of Sale. Ellen hopes to have this farm submitted to the State for their August 24, 2023 meeting.

IV. Round 15 - Please refer to Round 15 Ranking Report

- A. XV-22 and 21 (Ranked 1 and 2) – Appraisals Ordered
- B. XV-39 and XV-19 (Ranked 3 and 4) – will be moving forward when other appraisals have been received.
- C. Discussion to move forward with appraisal on XV-38 so it can be ordered at the same time as XV-39.

Executive Session Closed and Call for Action as Needed

V. Executive Session Action Items

- A. XV-38 – Motion to start appraisal process

Mr. Boyer made a motion to start the appraisal process on application XV-38; Mr. Weikert seconded. Motion carried.

- B. XV-35 – Special Project.

Mr. Wenk made a motion to offer 90%/ \$2628 per acre for XV-35; Mr. Boyer seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Session closed.

VI. Inspections, Transfer, Subdivision, Rural Enterprise Applications, Other Issues

Mark and Kelly have started inspections. Kelly had already conducted the required inspections on the six Federal easements. No issues other than April Robb property continues to be monitored for thistle. Last year it was determined that Mr. Robb received bad seed and planted it in the back hay field. The review is pending upon the control of the thistle.

VII. Program Guideline Changes

A. Discussion regarding possibility of changing LESA scoring regarding Conservation Plan issues.

Mark explained how lack of conservation efforts led to new LESA scoring. He collected LESA scoring information from 4 other PA counties to compare their scoring with ours. He also noted that our mapping program will be changing in the near future.

The revised Round 15 LESA Final Ranking Score and Test Score Using New Criteria and correlating graphs were reviewed and discussed.

Kelly explained how farms receiving a stewardship score of 20 points or less will not move forward in the preservation process. If adopted, this new information will be shared with top applicants.

Craig suggested changing acre criteria under Farmland Potential to 50 -99 and 49 or less acres. The current cut-off for points is 60 acres. No one could remember why it was set at 60 acres.

Ellen does not anticipate negative feedback from the State and will send the director a copy of the suggested changes for her review. She will bring this proposed new LESA worksheet to our solicitor, Molly Mudd, for her approval prior to the commissioners approving it. We hope to have it approved by the State Board in October.

George Weikert proposed the Board and staff spend more time to evaluate the changes. Ellen will share our solicitor's comments at the next Board meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Craig extended his appreciation to Ellen and staff on their hard work on the Hanover Shoe Farm preservation projects.

Mr. Boyer made a motion to adjourn the July 5, 2023 ACALPB meeting at 9:23 pm; Ms. Sidney Kuhn seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



LeighAnn Abraham, Secretary