

BERKS AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE NETWORK

Minutes of the March 17, 2016 Meeting
1:00 p.m. – Berks County Agricultural Center
Leesport, PA 19533

In attendance:

B.A.R.N. Members –

Adopt An Acre, Inc. – Ted Noble

Albright's Mill – Ted Teaford

BB&T – Keith Silfee

Berks County Conservation District - Tammy Bartsch, Olivia Carlson and Dean Druckenmiller

Berks County Department of Agriculture - Tami Hildebrand, Amanda Burkard-Sell and Kimberly Fies

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers - Roger Bowman

Berks County Society of Farm Women - Betsy Sattazahn

F.M. Browns' Sons, Inc. - Carl Brown

Gayatri Wellness – Lucine Sihelnik

Gunster, Carolyn

Hartman, Chris

Hopkins, Lloyd

Hughes, Bill

Manatawny Creek Winery – Darwin Levensgood

MidAtlantic Farm Credit - Jarod Fisher

Ontelaunee Grange - Nettie Kauffman

Pomona Grange - Ray Davis

Reading Eagle – Jamie Klein

Thompkins VIST – Travis Werley

Thun, David

Transition Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

I. **Welcome** – A welcome and Call to Order was announced by Carl Brown, President.

II. **American Pledge of Allegiance** – The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

III. **Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Board Meeting**

A motion was made to approve the minutes (Nettie Kauffman/Bill Hughes)

Motion carried.

IV. **Treasurer's Report**

- Bill Hughes presented the Treasurer's report. Hughes indicated a balance of \$20,409.56 with \$19,430.82 in the checking account and the remaining in the savings account. Note date on back of report is incorrect. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

Audit

- Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee audited accounts; they are satisfied all monies are accurate.

A motion was made to accept the audit (Ted Teaford/Chris Hartman).

Motion carried.

(The audit certification is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

There was no report from the Special Events committee.

B. Membership

There was no report from the Membership Committee. Ray Davis added that sixty-three (63) membership invoices were mailed and others were emailed.

C. Social Media/Communications

There was no report from the Social Media Committee. Betsy Sattazahn added that she noticed more traffic on Facebook.

D. Career Fair

Carolyn Gunster reported on the work of the Career Fair Committee. Seventy-six (76) exhibitors were invited, with thirty-nine (39) committed. This week four (4) backed-out, committee is looking for four (4) replacements. Carl Brown added that the Reading High School Career Fair is April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am. – 11:30 a.m. B.A.R.N. will participate as an exhibitor the event; Carolyn volunteered to assist.

E. Bountiful Berks

There was no report from the Bountiful Berks committee.

F. Bountiful Berks Banquet

Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet committee will meet on March 29, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Brown talked with Dave Kline from WEEU and also asked Jaime Klein to participate.

G. Farm Tour

Roger Bowman reported for the Farm Tour Committee. Bowman advised the committee selected the theme “Top of Berks” Farm Tour and that potential sites have been selected. The general consensus of the Farm Tour committee is to keep the sponsor levels as they are; the Berks County Department of Ag will assist with mailing sponsor letters.

VI. Old Business

A. National Ag Day and Department of Ag Celebration and Open House

Tami Hildebrand reported Tuesday’s event was a success.

B. Food Accelerator Grant

There was no report for the Food Accelerator Grant.

C. Farm Succession Planning

Bill Royer reported that Commissioner Leinbach would like to make this an annual event.

D. Kreasge Grant and Intern Report

Lucine Sihelnik reported over five hundred (500) applications were received; an announcement will be made in May instead of April.

E. National Ag Day Essay Contest

Jamie Klein reported that the National Ag Day Essays were in Berks Country. Berks County Department of Ag offered assistance with notifying schools by providing Jamie a contact at BCIU.

A motion was made for B.A.R.N. to sponsor the 2017 National Ag Day Essay or Video Taping (Nettie Kauffman/Bill Hughes).

Motion Carried.

F. Bus Trip to Ag Progress Days – Wed. Aug. 17th

Carl Brown reported a forty (40) seat bus has been reserved with Rhoads. Brown also added information for the bus trip should be included in the next meeting notice, on Facebook and send to Jamie Klein at Reading Eagle to add to their calendar. Bus will depart the Ag Center at 7:00 a.m. and return at 7:00 p.m. Brown suggested the ticket prices could be - B.A.R.N. members \$30.00, non-B.A.R.N. members \$35.00.

A motion was made to charge \$30 to B.A.R.N. members and \$35.00 to non-B.A.R.N. members (Ted Noble/Jarod Fisher).

Motion carried.

G. Other

- Pomona Grange is having a Legislative Dinner on April 8, 2016 at the Kutztown Grange Hall, tickets are \$15.00 for the meal; event begins at 6:30 p.m.
- Ag Day Baby - Betsy Sattazahn did not have a baby born on Ag Day, the first baby born after Ag Day was born to Nicole and Michael Good.
- Carolyn Gunster requested that B.A.R.N. have a table set up at the Penn Street Market this year with information about the organization. Market hours are Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., from June 2nd through September 29th. In June, July, August and September there will be a market on the first Friday of the month from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; October, November and December will also hold special event markets. Carl Brown suggested that Carolyn's request should be turned over to the Special Events Committee.
- Lucine Sihelnik reported that the Berks County Community Foundation received a \$10,000 grant to support the night market. Sihelnik also added the market is hoping to have a "Beef and Beer" fundraiser the first week of the market.

A motion was made to adjourn at 1:40 p.m. (Ray Davis/Carolyn Gunster)

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Bartsch, Secretary