

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

Berks Southeast Cattleman's Association – Sally Reinford

F. M. Browns' Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown

Fulton Bank – Scott Hauseman

Gayatri Wellness – Lucine Sihelnik

Greater Reading Economic Partnership – Morgan Dyer

Gunster, Carolyn

Hopkins, Lloyd

Hughes, Bill

Kauffman, Nettie

MidAtlantic Farm Credit – Jarod Fisher, Dave Stutzman

Penn State Extension-Berks County –Mat Haan

Pomona Grange – Ray Davis

Reading Eagle – Jamie Klein

Rothermel, Gary

SLC Heifers – Jim Coker

Stone Mill Farm – Bill Zollers

Thompkins VIST – Travis Werley

Thun, David

Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
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F. Bountiful Berks Banquet

- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

G. Farm Tour

- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

**A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).
Motion carried.**

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

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- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed a possible update to the Farm Market map which will be in the form of an app. The group discussed the data source for the original map, which was determined to be Penn State Extension.
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- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

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- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

Motion carried.

- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed a possible update to the Farm Market map which will be in the form of an app. The group discussed the data source for the original map, which was determined to be Penn State Extension.
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- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

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Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
- Lucine Sihelnik reported that approximately 30-35 vendors will participate in the Penn Street Market for 2016 and that BARN membership will be a component of participation. Sihelnik questioned as to the amount to charge for memberships; the group confirmed the \$25 individual membership. Tami Hildebrand added that an updated membership brochure had been submitted to the membership committee for review; once approved, this brochure could be distributed to the vendors and other potential members.

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- Carolyn Gunster reported on the work of the Career Fair Committee. Sixty-seven (67) exhibitors had been invited to participate, with 23 confirmed as attending to date; the final deadline is Friday, February 12th. Gunster added that after the presentation she had made with Tami Hildebrand to the County's public school principals and curriculum coordinators, updated contact information had been received. All information for the Career Fair will be sent to these individuals in addition to the standard distribution through BCIU; information will be mailed to local private and parochial schools.

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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

G. Farm Tour

- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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- Ted Noble reported that Adopt an Acre, Inc. had settlement for an easement purchase on December 28, 2015 on an approximately ten (10) acre farm in Penn Township owned by Charles and Margaret DeBoeser. Noble thanked the group for the \$5,000.00 in funding that had allowed the easement purchase to occur. The group discussed the funding source, which had been a \$16,000.00 grant from the Wyncote Foundation for promoting and supporting agriculture. Tami Hildebrand suggested sending a letter thanking the Wyncote Foundation for their contribution. Carl Brown instructed Hildebrand to write the letter.

C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

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- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

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- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

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A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

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A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

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A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

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I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

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A. Special Events

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Motion carried.**

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2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

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- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

**A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).
Motion carried.**

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

Motion carried.

- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed a possible update to the Farm Market map which will be in the form of an app. The group discussed the data source for the original map, which was determined to be Penn State Extension.
- Bill Zollers informed the group that those in the Chesapeake Bay watershed would be receiving a mailing from the Penn State Survey Research Center to participate in a survey reporting conservation practices. Several agencies are involved with the survey. The group discussed the survey.
- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

Berks Southeast Cattleman's Association – Sally Reinford

F. M. Browns' Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown

Fulton Bank – Scott Hauseman

Gayatri Wellness – Lucine Sihelnik

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Gunster, Carolyn

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SLC Heifers – Jim Coker

Stone Mill Farm – Bill Zollers

Thompkins VIST – Travis Werley

Thun, David

Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
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G. Farm Tour

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A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

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A. Food Accelerator Grant

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- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

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- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

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- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
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- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

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Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

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A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

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- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

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II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

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A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). Motion carried.

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- 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

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A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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- Ted Noble reported that Adopt an Acre, Inc. had settlement for an easement purchase on December 28, 2015 on an approximately ten (10) acre farm in Penn Township owned by Charles and Margaret DeBoeser. Noble thanked the group for the \$5,000.00 in funding that had allowed the easement purchase to occur. The group discussed the funding source, which had been a \$16,000.00 grant from the Wyncote Foundation for promoting and supporting agriculture. Tami Hildebrand suggested sending a letter thanking the Wyncote Foundation for their contribution. Carl Brown instructed Hildebrand to write the letter.

C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

Motion carried.

- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed a possible update to the Farm Market map which will be in the form of an app. The group discussed the data source for the original map, which was determined to be Penn State Extension.
- Bill Zollers informed the group that those in the Chesapeake Bay watershed would be receiving a mailing from the Penn State Survey Research Center to participate in a survey reporting conservation practices. Several agencies are involved with the survey. The group discussed the survey.
- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

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Stone Mill Farm – Bill Zollers

Thompkins VIST – Travis Werley

Thun, David

Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
- Lucine Sihelnik reported that approximately 30-35 vendors will participate in the Penn Street Market for 2016 and that BARN membership will be a component of participation. Sihelnik questioned as to the amount to charge for memberships; the group confirmed the \$25 individual membership. Tami Hildebrand added that an updated membership brochure had been submitted to the membership committee for review; once approved, this brochure could be distributed to the vendors and other potential members.

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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

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A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

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A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

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A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

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- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

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III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

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- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

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A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

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A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

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A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

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- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

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Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

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A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
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- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

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- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

Motion carried.

- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed a possible update to the Farm Market map which will be in the form of an app. The group discussed the data source for the original map, which was determined to be Penn State Extension.
- Bill Zollers informed the group that those in the Chesapeake Bay watershed would be receiving a mailing from the Penn State Survey Research Center to participate in a survey reporting conservation practices. Several agencies are involved with the survey. The group discussed the survey.
- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

Berks Southeast Cattleman's Association – Sally Reinford

F. M. Browns' Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown

Fulton Bank – Scott Hauseman

Gayatri Wellness – Lucine Sihelnik

Greater Reading Economic Partnership – Morgan Dyer

Gunster, Carolyn

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Hughes, Bill

Kauffman, Nettie

MidAtlantic Farm Credit – Jarod Fisher, Dave Stutzman

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SLC Heifers – Jim Coker

Stone Mill Farm – Bill Zollers

Thompkins VIST – Travis Werley

Thun, David

Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
- Lucine Sihelnik reported that approximately 30-35 vendors will participate in the Penn Street Market for 2016 and that BARN membership will be a component of participation. Sihelnik questioned as to the amount to charge for memberships; the group confirmed the \$25 individual membership. Tami Hildebrand added that an updated membership brochure had been submitted to the membership committee for review; once approved, this brochure could be distributed to the vendors and other potential members.

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G. Farm Tour

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A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

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A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
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Motion carried.**

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- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

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Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

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- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

**A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).
Motion carried.**

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A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

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A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

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III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). Motion carried.

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- 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

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- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

Motion carried.

- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed a possible update to the Farm Market map which will be in the form of an app. The group discussed the data source for the original map, which was determined to be Penn State Extension.
- Bill Zollers informed the group that those in the Chesapeake Bay watershed would be receiving a mailing from the Penn State Survey Research Center to participate in a survey reporting conservation practices. Several agencies are involved with the survey. The group discussed the survey.
- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

Berks Southeast Cattleman's Association – Sally Reinford

F. M. Browns' Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown

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Gayatri Wellness – Lucine Sihelnik

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Gunster, Carolyn

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Hughes, Bill

Kauffman, Nettie

MidAtlantic Farm Credit – Jarod Fisher, Dave Stutzman

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Rothermel, Gary

SLC Heifers – Jim Coker

Stone Mill Farm – Bill Zollers

Thompkins VIST – Travis Werley

Thun, David

Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
- Lucine Sihelnik reported that approximately 30-35 vendors will participate in the Penn Street Market for 2016 and that BARN membership will be a component of participation. Sihelnik questioned as to the amount to charge for memberships; the group confirmed the \$25 individual membership. Tami Hildebrand added that an updated membership brochure had been submitted to the membership committee for review; once approved, this brochure could be distributed to the vendors and other potential members.

C. Social Media

- There was no report from the Social Media Committee. Mat Haan added that the committee needs to have a meeting. Carl Brown requested that the Ag Progress Days Bus Trip information be added to the group's social media.

D. Career Fair

- Carolyn Gunster reported on the work of the Career Fair Committee. Sixty-seven (67) exhibitors had been invited to participate, with 23 confirmed as attending to date; the final deadline is Friday, February 12th. Gunster added that after the presentation she had made with Tami Hildebrand to the County's public school principals and curriculum coordinators, updated contact information had been received. All information for the Career Fair will be sent to these individuals in addition to the standard distribution through BCIU; information will be mailed to local private and parochial schools.

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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

G. Farm Tour

- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

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A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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C. Other

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2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

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- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

**A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).
Motion carried.**

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

Motion carried.

- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed a possible update to the Farm Market map which will be in the form of an app. The group discussed the data source for the original map, which was determined to be Penn State Extension.
- Bill Zollers informed the group that those in the Chesapeake Bay watershed would be receiving a mailing from the Penn State Survey Research Center to participate in a survey reporting conservation practices. Several agencies are involved with the survey. The group discussed the survey.
- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

Berks Southeast Cattleman's Association – Sally Reinford

F. M. Browns' Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown

Fulton Bank – Scott Hauseman

Gayatri Wellness – Lucine Sihelnik

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Gunster, Carolyn

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SLC Heifers – Jim Coker

Stone Mill Farm – Bill Zollers

Thompkins VIST – Travis Werley

Thun, David

Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
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G. Farm Tour

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A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

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A. Food Accelerator Grant

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- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

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- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

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- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
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- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

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Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

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A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

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- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

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II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

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A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). Motion carried.

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- 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

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A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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- Ted Noble reported that Adopt an Acre, Inc. had settlement for an easement purchase on December 28, 2015 on an approximately ten (10) acre farm in Penn Township owned by Charles and Margaret DeBoeser. Noble thanked the group for the \$5,000.00 in funding that had allowed the easement purchase to occur. The group discussed the funding source, which had been a \$16,000.00 grant from the Wyncote Foundation for promoting and supporting agriculture. Tami Hildebrand suggested sending a letter thanking the Wyncote Foundation for their contribution. Carl Brown instructed Hildebrand to write the letter.

C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

Motion carried.

- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed a possible update to the Farm Market map which will be in the form of an app. The group discussed the data source for the original map, which was determined to be Penn State Extension.
- Bill Zollers informed the group that those in the Chesapeake Bay watershed would be receiving a mailing from the Penn State Survey Research Center to participate in a survey reporting conservation practices. Several agencies are involved with the survey. The group discussed the survey.
- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

Berks Southeast Cattleman's Association – Sally Reinford

F. M. Browns' Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown

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Gayatri Wellness – Lucine Sihelnik

Greater Reading Economic Partnership – Morgan Dyer

Gunster, Carolyn

Hopkins, Lloyd

Hughes, Bill

Kauffman, Nettie

MidAtlantic Farm Credit – Jarod Fisher, Dave Stutzman

Penn State Extension-Berks County –Mat Haan

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SLC Heifers – Jim Coker

Stone Mill Farm – Bill Zollers

Thompkins VIST – Travis Werley

Thun, David

Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
- Lucine Sihelnik reported that approximately 30-35 vendors will participate in the Penn Street Market for 2016 and that BARN membership will be a component of participation. Sihelnik questioned as to the amount to charge for memberships; the group confirmed the \$25 individual membership. Tami Hildebrand added that an updated membership brochure had been submitted to the membership committee for review; once approved, this brochure could be distributed to the vendors and other potential members.

C. Social Media

- There was no report from the Social Media Committee. Mat Haan added that the committee needs to have a meeting. Carl Brown requested that the Ag Progress Days Bus Trip information be added to the group's social media.

D. Career Fair

- Carolyn Gunster reported on the work of the Career Fair Committee. Sixty-seven (67) exhibitors had been invited to participate, with 23 confirmed as attending to date; the final deadline is Friday, February 12th. Gunster added that after the presentation she had made with Tami Hildebrand to the County's public school principals and curriculum coordinators, updated contact information had been received. All information for the Career Fair will be sent to these individuals in addition to the standard distribution through BCIU; information will be mailed to local private and parochial schools.

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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

G. Farm Tour

- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

**A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).
Motion carried.**

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Amanda Burkard-Sell

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Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
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III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

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- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

**A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).
Motion carried.**

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

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- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
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A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

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- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

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Guests:

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I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

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- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
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A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
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A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

Motion carried.

- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

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- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

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Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

G. Farm Tour

- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

**A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).
Motion carried.**

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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C. Other

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- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
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A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

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Respectfully submitted,

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I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

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- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

Motion carried.

- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed a possible update to the Farm Market map which will be in the form of an app. The group discussed the data source for the original map, which was determined to be Penn State Extension.
- Bill Zollers informed the group that those in the Chesapeake Bay watershed would be receiving a mailing from the Penn State Survey Research Center to participate in a survey reporting conservation practices. Several agencies are involved with the survey. The group discussed the survey.
- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

Berks Southeast Cattleman's Association – Sally Reinford

F. M. Browns' Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown

Fulton Bank – Scott Hauseman

Gayatri Wellness – Lucine Sihelnik

Greater Reading Economic Partnership – Morgan Dyer

Gunster, Carolyn

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Hughes, Bill

Kauffman, Nettie

MidAtlantic Farm Credit – Jarod Fisher, Dave Stutzman

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SLC Heifers – Jim Coker

Stone Mill Farm – Bill Zollers

Thompkins VIST – Travis Werley

Thun, David

Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
- Lucine Sihelnik reported that approximately 30-35 vendors will participate in the Penn Street Market for 2016 and that BARN membership will be a component of participation. Sihelnik questioned as to the amount to charge for memberships; the group confirmed the \$25 individual membership. Tami Hildebrand added that an updated membership brochure had been submitted to the membership committee for review; once approved, this brochure could be distributed to the vendors and other potential members.

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G. Farm Tour

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A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

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A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
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Motion carried.**

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A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

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Guests:

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I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

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A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

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A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

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A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
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A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

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A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

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A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

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A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

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- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

Motion carried.

- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed a possible update to the Farm Market map which will be in the form of an app. The group discussed the data source for the original map, which was determined to be Penn State Extension.
- Bill Zollers informed the group that those in the Chesapeake Bay watershed would be receiving a mailing from the Penn State Survey Research Center to participate in a survey reporting conservation practices. Several agencies are involved with the survey. The group discussed the survey.
- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

Berks Southeast Cattleman's Association – Sally Reinford

F. M. Browns' Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown

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Gayatri Wellness – Lucine Sihelnik

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Gunster, Carolyn

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Hughes, Bill

Kauffman, Nettie

MidAtlantic Farm Credit – Jarod Fisher, Dave Stutzman

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Rothermel, Gary

SLC Heifers – Jim Coker

Stone Mill Farm – Bill Zollers

Thompkins VIST – Travis Werley

Thun, David

Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
- Lucine Sihelnik reported that approximately 30-35 vendors will participate in the Penn Street Market for 2016 and that BARN membership will be a component of participation. Sihelnik questioned as to the amount to charge for memberships; the group confirmed the \$25 individual membership. Tami Hildebrand added that an updated membership brochure had been submitted to the membership committee for review; once approved, this brochure could be distributed to the vendors and other potential members.

C. Social Media

- There was no report from the Social Media Committee. Mat Haan added that the committee needs to have a meeting. Carl Brown requested that the Ag Progress Days Bus Trip information be added to the group's social media.

D. Career Fair

- Carolyn Gunster reported on the work of the Career Fair Committee. Sixty-seven (67) exhibitors had been invited to participate, with 23 confirmed as attending to date; the final deadline is Friday, February 12th. Gunster added that after the presentation she had made with Tami Hildebrand to the County's public school principals and curriculum coordinators, updated contact information had been received. All information for the Career Fair will be sent to these individuals in addition to the standard distribution through BCIU; information will be mailed to local private and parochial schools.

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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

G. Farm Tour

- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

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A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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C. Other

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2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

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- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

Motion carried.

- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed a possible update to the Farm Market map which will be in the form of an app. The group discussed the data source for the original map, which was determined to be Penn State Extension.
- Bill Zollers informed the group that those in the Chesapeake Bay watershed would be receiving a mailing from the Penn State Survey Research Center to participate in a survey reporting conservation practices. Several agencies are involved with the survey. The group discussed the survey.
- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

Berks Southeast Cattleman's Association – Sally Reinford

F. M. Browns' Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown

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Stone Mill Farm – Bill Zollers

Thompkins VIST – Travis Werley

Thun, David

Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

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- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

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- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

Motion carried.

- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

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- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

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Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
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- Carolyn Gunster reported on the work of the Career Fair Committee. Sixty-seven (67) exhibitors had been invited to participate, with 23 confirmed as attending to date; the final deadline is Friday, February 12th. Gunster added that after the presentation she had made with Tami Hildebrand to the County's public school principals and curriculum coordinators, updated contact information had been received. All information for the Career Fair will be sent to these individuals in addition to the standard distribution through BCIU; information will be mailed to local private and parochial schools.

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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

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- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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- Ted Noble reported that Adopt an Acre, Inc. had settlement for an easement purchase on December 28, 2015 on an approximately ten (10) acre farm in Penn Township owned by Charles and Margaret DeBoeser. Noble thanked the group for the \$5,000.00 in funding that had allowed the easement purchase to occur. The group discussed the funding source, which had been a \$16,000.00 grant from the Wyncote Foundation for promoting and supporting agriculture. Tami Hildebrand suggested sending a letter thanking the Wyncote Foundation for their contribution. Carl Brown instructed Hildebrand to write the letter.

C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

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Respectfully submitted,

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I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

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Motion carried.**

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**A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).
Motion carried.**

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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- Ted Noble reported that Adopt an Acre, Inc. had settlement for an easement purchase on December 28, 2015 on an approximately ten (10) acre farm in Penn Township owned by Charles and Margaret DeBoeser. Noble thanked the group for the \$5,000.00 in funding that had allowed the easement purchase to occur. The group discussed the funding source, which had been a \$16,000.00 grant from the Wyncote Foundation for promoting and supporting agriculture. Tami Hildebrand suggested sending a letter thanking the Wyncote Foundation for their contribution. Carl Brown instructed Hildebrand to write the letter.

C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

Motion carried.

- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed a possible update to the Farm Market map which will be in the form of an app. The group discussed the data source for the original map, which was determined to be Penn State Extension.
- Bill Zollers informed the group that those in the Chesapeake Bay watershed would be receiving a mailing from the Penn State Survey Research Center to participate in a survey reporting conservation practices. Several agencies are involved with the survey. The group discussed the survey.
- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

Berks Southeast Cattleman's Association – Sally Reinford

F. M. Browns' Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown

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Gayatri Wellness – Lucine Sihelnik

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Gunster, Carolyn

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Hughes, Bill

Kauffman, Nettie

MidAtlantic Farm Credit – Jarod Fisher, Dave Stutzman

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SLC Heifers – Jim Coker

Stone Mill Farm – Bill Zollers

Thompkins VIST – Travis Werley

Thun, David

Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
- Lucine Sihelnik reported that approximately 30-35 vendors will participate in the Penn Street Market for 2016 and that BARN membership will be a component of participation. Sihelnik questioned as to the amount to charge for memberships; the group confirmed the \$25 individual membership. Tami Hildebrand added that an updated membership brochure had been submitted to the membership committee for review; once approved, this brochure could be distributed to the vendors and other potential members.

C. Social Media

- There was no report from the Social Media Committee. Mat Haan added that the committee needs to have a meeting. Carl Brown requested that the Ag Progress Days Bus Trip information be added to the group's social media.

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- Carolyn Gunster reported on the work of the Career Fair Committee. Sixty-seven (67) exhibitors had been invited to participate, with 23 confirmed as attending to date; the final deadline is Friday, February 12th. Gunster added that after the presentation she had made with Tami Hildebrand to the County's public school principals and curriculum coordinators, updated contact information had been received. All information for the Career Fair will be sent to these individuals in addition to the standard distribution through BCIU; information will be mailed to local private and parochial schools.

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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

G. Farm Tour

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A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

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A. Food Accelerator Grant

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A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

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- Lucine Sihelnik discussed a possible update to the Farm Market map which will be in the form of an app. The group discussed the data source for the original map, which was determined to be Penn State Extension.
- Bill Zollers informed the group that those in the Chesapeake Bay watershed would be receiving a mailing from the Penn State Survey Research Center to participate in a survey reporting conservation practices. Several agencies are involved with the survey. The group discussed the survey.
- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

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II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

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- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

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A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
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A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

Motion carried.

- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

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- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

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Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

G. Farm Tour

- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

**A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).
Motion carried.**

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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C. Other

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A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
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A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

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Respectfully submitted,

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II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

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A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

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- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

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- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

**A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).
Motion carried.**

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

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C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

Motion carried.

- The group thanked GREP for providing snacks for the meeting.
- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed a possible update to the Farm Market map which will be in the form of an app. The group discussed the data source for the original map, which was determined to be Penn State Extension.
- Bill Zollers informed the group that those in the Chesapeake Bay watershed would be receiving a mailing from the Penn State Survey Research Center to participate in a survey reporting conservation practices. Several agencies are involved with the survey. The group discussed the survey.
- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

Berks Southeast Cattleman's Association – Sally Reinford

F. M. Browns' Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown

Fulton Bank – Scott Hauseman

Gayatri Wellness – Lucine Sihelnik

Greater Reading Economic Partnership – Morgan Dyer

Gunster, Carolyn

Hopkins, Lloyd

Hughes, Bill

Kauffman, Nettie

MidAtlantic Farm Credit – Jarod Fisher, Dave Stutzman

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SLC Heifers – Jim Coker

Stone Mill Farm – Bill Zollers

Thompkins VIST – Travis Werley

Thun, David

Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
- Lucine Sihelnik reported that approximately 30-35 vendors will participate in the Penn Street Market for 2016 and that BARN membership will be a component of participation. Sihelnik questioned as to the amount to charge for memberships; the group confirmed the \$25 individual membership. Tami Hildebrand added that an updated membership brochure had been submitted to the membership committee for review; once approved, this brochure could be distributed to the vendors and other potential members.

C. Social Media

- There was no report from the Social Media Committee. Mat Haan added that the committee needs to have a meeting. Carl Brown requested that the Ag Progress Days Bus Trip information be added to the group's social media.

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G. Farm Tour

- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

**A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).
Motion carried.**

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
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- Morgan Dyer requested that someone from BARN take over the Twitter account that had been created. Lucine Sihelnik suggested this could be a task for the intern.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed a possible update to the Farm Market map which will be in the form of an app. The group discussed the data source for the original map, which was determined to be Penn State Extension.
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- The group thanked Jamie Klein and the *Reading Eagle* for their coverage of the Farm Show this year. Klein expressed her enjoyment with participating in the event.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 PM (Bill Zollers, Ray Davis).

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda Burkard-Sell

Berks Agricultural Resource Network
Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting
1:00 PM – 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

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

Berks County Farm Bureau – Larry Gelsinger

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

Berks Southeast Cattleman's Association – Sally Reinford

F. M. Browns' Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown

Fulton Bank – Scott Hauseman

Gayatri Wellness – Lucine Sihelnik

Greater Reading Economic Partnership – Morgan Dyer

Gunster, Carolyn

Hopkins, Lloyd

Hughes, Bill

Kauffman, Nettie

MidAtlantic Farm Credit – Jarod Fisher, Dave Stutzman

Penn State Extension-Berks County –Mat Haan

Pomona Grange – Ray Davis

Reading Eagle – Jamie Klein

Rothermel, Gary

SLC Heifers – Jim Coker

Stone Mill Farm – Bill Zollers

Thompkins VIST – Travis Werley

Thun, David

Transitions Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Guests:

Farm Service Agency – Terry Tracey, Jess Gerhart

I. Welcome - A welcome and Call to Order was done by Carl Brown, President. Brown apologized for the change in meeting date from January 26th, which was due to the weather and lack of parking at the Ag Center.

II. American Pledge of Allegiance - The group Pledged Allegiance the Flag.

III. Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes as revised (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman). 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. Hughes highlighted that an additional \$200 in membership dues had been received since

the membership committee contacted unpaid members. Bills for 2016 membership have not yet been mailed. (An official report is attached to the minutes.)

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events

1. Larry Gelsinger reported that the Reading Royals game had been postponed from Saturday, January 23rd to Monday, January 25th, due to the inclement weather. Carolyn Gunster added that she had been the only attendant from BARN.
2. Carl Brown reminded the group that a bus had been reserved with Rhoads Limousine on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 to attend Ag Progress Days. Brown added that the bus would leave the Ag Center at 7:00 AM and return at 7:00 PM and would cost \$32.50 per person; 40 seats will be available. The group discussed the schedule for Ag Progress Days on the 17th, which included the State of the College Luncheon and Elected Officials Day.

B. Membership

- There was no report from the Membership Committee. Bill Hughes added that after the last committee meeting, eight (8) membership renewals had been received: five (5) individual, one (1) non-profit and two (2) for-profit. Hughes requested that the committee meet again to review the list and remove non-paying members.
- Lucine Sihelnik reported that approximately 30-35 vendors will participate in the Penn Street Market for 2016 and that BARN membership will be a component of participation. Sihelnik questioned as to the amount to charge for memberships; the group confirmed the \$25 individual membership. Tami Hildebrand added that an updated membership brochure had been submitted to the membership committee for review; once approved, this brochure could be distributed to the vendors and other potential members.

C. Social Media

- There was no report from the Social Media Committee. Mat Haan added that the committee needs to have a meeting. Carl Brown requested that the Ag Progress Days Bus Trip information be added to the group's social media.

D. Career Fair

- Carolyn Gunster reported on the work of the Career Fair Committee. Sixty-seven (67) exhibitors had been invited to participate, with 23 confirmed as attending to date; the final deadline is Friday, February 12th. Gunster added that after the presentation she had made with Tami Hildebrand to the County's public school principals and curriculum coordinators, updated contact information had been received. All information for the Career Fair will be sent to these individuals in addition to the standard distribution through BCIU; information will be mailed to local private and parochial schools.

E. Bountiful Berks

- There was no report for Bountiful Berks.

F. Bountiful Berks Banquet

- Carl Brown reported that the Bountiful Berks Banquet Committee needs to hold another meeting. Brown reminded the group that the Banquet is planned for March of 2017 and will be similar to previous Farm City Banquets. Plans also include featuring Bountiful Berks members.

- The group discussed the Bountiful Berks program and the need to review and enhance the benefits. Lucine Sihelnik stressed that local branding efforts are important and should receive the attention of the group. She added that the Food Policy Council is also working in this area.

G. Farm Tour

- Roger Bowman and Ted Teaford reported that the Farm Tour Committee had met prior to the meeting to begin planning the Tour for 2016. The committee requested that the date of the Tour be changed from Saturday, October 8, 2016 to Saturday, October 15, 2016 to avoid a conflict with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and that the focus area be changed from Albany Township to Northern Berks to include a larger number of possible tour sites. Bowman and Teaford added that they plan to begin visiting potential host sites and sponsors to request participation and that the committee will meet prior to the March BARN meeting.

A motion was made to change the date of the October Farm Tour to Saturday, October 15, 2016 (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel).

Motion carried.

VI. Old Business

A. Food Accelerator Grant

- Tami Hildebrand reported that two potential locations are being explored for the Community Kitchen, but the locations were confidential at this point; she added that another meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- As requested, Hildebrand reminded the group that Ernie Post from the Kutztown University Small Business Association had been working to establish a community kitchen, where local vendors would be able to prepare products for sale. Lucine Sihelnik added that a grant application had been submitted for the kitchen to be used for cooking classes and an artisan market in addition to food production.

B. Farm Land Grant

- Ted Noble reported that Adopt an Acre, Inc. had settlement for an easement purchase on December 28, 2015 on an approximately ten (10) acre farm in Penn Township owned by Charles and Margaret DeBoeser. Noble thanked the group for the \$5,000.00 in funding that had allowed the easement purchase to occur. The group discussed the funding source, which had been a \$16,000.00 grant from the Wyncote Foundation for promoting and supporting agriculture. Tami Hildebrand suggested sending a letter thanking the Wyncote Foundation for their contribution. Carl Brown instructed Hildebrand to write the letter.

C. Other

- Carl Brown requested feedback from the group regarding the trial change of meeting time from Thursdays at 9:00 AM to Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. The group discussed how to increase meeting attendance.

VII. New Business

A. Berks National Ag Day Celebration – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- Tami Hildebrand discussed plans for the National Ag Day Celebration at the Ag Center on March 15, 2016. Since funds could not be raised for the original speaker, the focus will now be on the Poultry Industry. Hildebrand added that the day's events will include a panel discussion, tours of the Ag Center and possible tours of poultry facilities in the afternoon.
- The group discussed the date of the next meeting and agreed that it should be held on Tuesday, March 15th in conjunction with the National Ag Day Celebration. The March meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting.
- Jamie Klein reminded the group of the essay contest that is usually held by BARN and the *Reading Eagle*, with the results announced at the March meeting. The group discussed the specifics of the contest. Scott Hauseman agreed to secure funding from Fulton Bank to support the contest and provide prizes to the winners. The essay contest will be broken down into three (3) levels, with a winner chosen for each grade level. Bill Royer presented the idea of holding video contest instead of an essay contest for next year. The group agreed to discuss this for next year. Scott Hauseman, Carolyn Gunster, and Lloyd Hopkins were selected to judge the essay contest. BARN will contribute seven (7) \$25 checks, one for each grade's winner; funding for the checks will be reimbursed by Fulton Bank.
- The group confirmed the annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 1 PM. BARN members were encouraged to attend the activities sponsored by Department of Agriculture in the morning.

B. Ag Day Baby Recognition

- Although unable to be present, Betsy Sattazahn, through Tami Hildebrand, confirmed the Ag Day Baby Recognition that will occur for the first babies born on National Ag Day, March 15th.

C. Nominating Committee

- Gary Rothermel confirmed that a meeting of the Nominating Committee will occur after the regular meeting. Five (5) Board members, in addition to officers, will need to be elected at the March meeting.

D. Budget & Audit

- The Budget and Audit Committee, which consists of Scott Hauseman and Keith Silfee, will meet to perform the annual audit before the March meeting.

E. Other

- Tami Hildebrand and Bill Royer informed the group that a Farm Succession Planning event will be held at the Ag Center on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Attorneys, accountants, and bankers will be present to answer questions and lunch will be provided. Hildebrand reported that GREP is a sponsor of the event and requested that BARN also consider providing sponsorship.

A motion was made to provide \$750 to sponsor the Farm Succession Planning event (Bill Hughes, Nettie Kauffman).

Motion carried.

- Bill Royer explained that succession planning for farmers involves the three entities of family, business, and ownership; the event will focus on helping farmers bring their goals in these areas together while minimizing conflict.
- Carl Brown informed the group of a Career Fair the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce will hold at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Brown requested that BARN participate with a booth promoting careers in agriculture.

A motion was made for BARN to participate in the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Reading High School on April 27, 2016 (Gary Rothermel, Ted Teaford).

Motion carried. Carl Brown, Carolyn Gunster, Lucine Sihelnik and Lloyd Hopkins will participate in the event.

- Lucine Sihelnik discussed the grant application that had been submitted to the Kreasge Foundation on behalf of Redesign Reading. If obtained, funding from the grant will potentially support the Community Kitchen project and Bountiful Berks. Sihelnik also reported that an unpaid intern from Kutztown University will be retained to work on food systems and research local branding efforts. Sihelnik suggested that the intern could also provide support to BARN, specifically the Bountiful Berks Program, with this research and in the areas of marketing and communications. Carl Brown reported that he had sent a letter of support for the grant.

A motion was made to support the application for a grant from the Kreasge Foundation by Redesign Reading (Gary Rothermel, Bill Zollers).

Motion carried.

- Lucine Sihelnik returned several flags belonging to BARN that had been previously used at the Penn Street Market.
- Carolyn Gunster, who is the Vendor Coordinator for the Penn Street Market, requested that BARN set up a table at the market, which is Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM from June 2 through September 29; there will also be monthly markets in October, November, and December. Gunster added that last year there were 20 vendors at the market and this year's plan is for 30 to 35 vendors.

A motion was made to support the Penn Street Market and set up a display table at least monthly (Bill Hughes, Tami Hildebrand).

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