

**BERKS AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE  
NETWORK (B.A.R.N.)**  
Minutes of the January 24, 2017 Meeting  
**1:00 p.m. – Berks County Agricultural Center**  
**1238 County Welfare Road**  
**Leesport, PA 19533**

**In attendance**

**B.A.R.N. Members:**

Adopt-An-Acre – Ted Noble  
Albright's Mill – Ted Teaford  
Berks County Conservation District – Tammy Bartsch  
Berks County Commissioner - Christian Leinbach  
Berks County Department of Agriculture – Amanda Burkard-Sell, Kim Fies and Tami Hildebrand  
Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman  
Berks County Society of Farm Women – Betsy Sattazahn  
F.M. Browns' Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown  
Fulton Bank –Keith Silfee  
Gunster, Carolyn  
Gelsinger, Larry  
Hartman, Valeriano, Magovern & Lutz, P.C. – Chris Hartman  
Hopkins, Lloyd  
Hughes, Bill  
Kauffman, Nettie  
Manatawny Creek Winery – Darwin Levensgood  
Ontelaunee Grange – Irvin Kauffman  
Reading Eagle/Berks Country – Lisa Scheid  
Reading Redesign – Lucine Sihelnik  
Representative Mark Gillen - Lois Theisinger  
Rothermel, Gary  
Sattazahn, Robert  
Senator Judy Schwank – Jamie Klein  
SKW Consulting – Sandy Witman  
Tompkins VIST Bank – Travis Werley  
Transition Group – Bill Royer  
Thun, David  
USDA Farm Service Agency – Theresa Tracey

**Guests:**

Berks County – Mary Buerer  
Bowman, Nancy  
Deerfoot Farm – David Brown

**I. Welcome**

*Larry Gelsinger, President*

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

### **III. Minutes of the November 22, 2016 BARN Meeting**

*Tammy Bartsch, Secretary*

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the November 22, 2016 BARN Board Meeting. (Gary Rothermel, Bill Hughes)

Motion carried.

### **IV. Treasurer's Report**

*Bill Hughes*

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report. (Keith Silfee, Ted Noble)

Motion carried.

- Bill reported that all BARN members who did not pay their dues prior to 2015 were removed from the membership roster.

### **V. Committees General Announcements**

#### **A. Update – 2017 BARN Career Fair**

*Carolyn Gunster*

- 97 letters were sent out to Exhibitors, to date 12 responses were received
- Deadline is February 3, 2017; after the deadline, Career Fair committee members will contact Exhibitors and ask if they are interested in participating.

#### **B. Update – 2017 BARN Bountiful Berks Banquet**

*Carl Brown*

- Ticket base price is \$22.00
- Banquet is October 27, 2017
- There will be six entrees with vegetables and/or other items
- A few local businesses will be providing the main dish of the entrée
- Music is from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.; Dave Kline is providing music and will MC the event.

### **VI. Old Business**

#### **A. PA Farm Bureau Friends of Agriculture Foundation (PA Farm Bureau FAF)**

*Tami Hildebrand*

- Tami asked for clarification regarding the PA Ag Literacy Program that BARN donated \$500 to in November. Was BARN to find readers for the week of March 20<sup>th</sup> or was that something the PA Farm Bureau FAF going to handle?
- Since those attending the November meeting did not recall, Tami will contact PA Farm Bureau FAF for clarification.

#### **B. Update – BARN at the Reading Royals Ag Night**

*Roger Bowman*

- BARN sold 38 tickets
- Roger Bowman dropped the puck
- Fulton Bank sold 20 tickets

#### **C. Bountiful Berks Renewal**

*Tami Hildebrand*

- Need to look at the Bountiful Berks trademark.
- Bill Hughes will look into costs.
- A motion was made to authorize the renewal of the BARN trademark and find the anniversary of the Bountiful Berks logo and renew in a timely manner. (Chris Hartman, Bill Royer)

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Regional Reading Food Policy Action Council Food Hub**

*Lucine Sihelnik*

A motion was made to accept the application of Regional Reading Food Policy Action Council as a participant in Bountiful Berks (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel)

Motion was amended (Nettie Kauffman, Gary Rothermel) to include:

and approve the use of Bountiful Berks in the new name of the food hub.

Motion Carried

### **B. National Ag Day Essay Contest**

*Jamie Klein*

- Jamie asked for assistance with essay questions, one for each of the three categories, as well as a theme for the video portion of this year's contest. They are:
  - Video – create an ad for a local food product.
  - High School (450 – 500 words) What are the benefits of eating local food.
  - Grades 7 & 8 (200 – 250 words) What three things would you have on your farm and why.
  - Grades 4 – 6 essay question (100 – 150 words) What do you think a farmer does all day?
- Jamie also asked for volunteers to help with judging. Essays will be available for judging on February 7<sup>th</sup> and results turned in by February 16<sup>th</sup>.
- A motion was made to sponsor 9 awards for the contest, each will be \$25.00. (Lloyd Hopkins, Carolyn Gunster)  
Motion carried.
- Videos will be available to view on National Ag Day.
- Carl Brown suggested top videos may be used at the Bountiful Berks Banquet in October.

### **C. National Ag Day Sponsoring Request – Dept. of Ag.**

*Tami Hildebrand*

- Tami requested a donation of \$500 for use at this year's National Ag Day event.
- A motion was made to donate \$500 as sponsorship of National Ag Day. (Bill Hughes, David Thun)

### **D. 2017 BARN Annual Meeting Location**

*Tami Hildebrand*

- The annual meeting is on March 23, 2017; that is also when the Secretary of Agriculture will be in town for another meeting.
- Tami is trying to coordinate a meeting location and time that may coincide with the Secretary's schedule that he may be able to join the BARN meeting.
- Additional information will be provided as things progress.

### **E. Nominating Committee**

*Larry Gelsinger*

- Gary Rothermel resigned; volunteers were requested to take over this position.
- This committee is responsible for securing nominations for various officers of BARN.
- Jamie Klein volunteered to take over the committee.
- Bill Hughes provided – there are 5 board members going off this year.
- Commissioner Leinbach suggested the Chair form a committee to review the bylaws; he feels it is unusual for board members to only serve three two-year terms and they come off the board.

### **F. Audit Committee**

*Bill Hughes*

- Volunteers are needed for the committee.
- David Thun and Travis Werley volunteered.

**VIII. Other Items – BARN Members Comments/Questions**

Betsy Sattazahn

- Betsy explained she is resigning from the Farm Women's group and is not sure who or if they will continue with the National Ag Day Baby program.
- The Farm Women meet the first week of February at which time they will decide if they are going to continue with the National Ag Day Baby program or not, Betsy will advise.

**IX. Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn. (Lloyd Hopkins, Nettie Kauffman)

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy Bartsch, Secretary