

BERKS AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE NETWORK (B.A.R.N.)

Minutes of the March 23, 2017 Meeting (*DRAFT*)

1:00 p.m. – Berks Packing Company @ 530 Riverfront Drive, Reading, PA 19602

In attendance

B.A.R.N. Members:

Adopt-An-Acre, Inc. – Ted Noble
Berks County Conservation District – Tammy Bartsch
Berks County Department of Agriculture – Amanda Burkard-Sell, Kim Fies and Tami Hildebrand
Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger and Nancy Bowman
Berks/Southeast Cattlemen’s Association – Sally Reinford
Ephrata National Bank – Jarod Fisher
F.M. Browns’ Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown
Gelsinger, Larry
Greater Reading Economic Partnership (GREP) – Pam Shupp
Gunster, Carolyn
Hartman, Valeriano, Magovern & Lutz, P.C. – Chris Hartman
Hughes, Bill
Kathleen Barry Insurance Agency – Christine Oellig
Manatawny Creek Winery – Darvin Levengood
Pomona Grange – Andrew Kieffer, President
Reading Eagle/Berks Country – Lisa Scheid
Representative Mark Gillen – Danni Wingate, Staff Member
Rothermel, Gary
Sattazahn, Robert
Senator Judy Schwank
Senator Judy Schwank – Jamie Klein, Staff Member
SKW Consulting – Sandy Witman
Vista Grande Farms, LLC – Phoebe Bitler

Guests:

Dundore & Heister, LLC – Tod Auman & Danielle Stubblebine
PA Department of Agriculture Secretary – Russell Redding
PA Department of Agriculture – Nicole McCrone, Staff Member
Reading Eagle Photographer
Senator David Argall
Senator David Argall – Craig Lutz, Staff Member
Senator David Argall – John Matulevich, Intern

I. Welcome

Larry Gelsinger, President

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

III. Minutes of the January 24, 2017 Board Meeting

Tammy Bartsch, Secretary

Correction to minutes: Betsy Sattazahn resigned from the National Ag Day Baby Committee of the Berks County Society of Farm Women, not the entire Farm Women’s group.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2017 BARN Board Meeting. (Carl Brown/Bill Hughes)
Motion carried.

IV. Remarks from Invited Guest(s)

PA Department of Agriculture Secretary – Russell Redding
Senator David Argall
Senator Judy Schwank

V. Treasurer’s Report

Bill Hughes

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer’s report. (Bob Sattazahn/Carolyn Gunster)
Motion carried.

A. Audit Report

Books were audited and a letter written

A motion was made to approve the audit. (Gary Rothermel/Ted Noble)

VI. Committees General Announcements

A. Update – 2017 BARN Career Fair – Carolyn Gunster

- There were 32 exhibitors
- 31 students attended
- Need to consider holding the event at another time of the year; possibly the first week of November, due to inclement weather and school budgets being depleted by the spring. Fall would be a better option.

B. Update – 2017 BARN Bountiful Berks Banquet – Carl Brown

- Date Is October 27, 2017
- Time 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- \$25.00 per ticket
- Six entrees – duck, turkey, beef, pork, lamb & vegetarian
- “Life After Work” is the band; it will provide its own sound system
- Sponsorships should be sought very soon. Sponsorship Levels will be:
 - \$1,000 Platinum
 - \$ 500 Gold
 - \$ 250 Silver
 - \$ 100 Bronze

A motion was made to provide banquet tickets for sponsors. (William Hughes/Larry Gelsing)

- Next Committee meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza.

VII. Old Business

A. National Ag Day Celebration & Open House – Tami Hildebrand

- “To Market, To Market…” this year’s theme. The discussions held by two panels, “Growing & Selling” and “Farm Market Managers” were informative and timely. Thank you to everyone for your help and participation!

B. PA Farm Bureau Friends of Agriculture Foundation – Tami Hildebrand

- Thanked the BARN Volunteer Readers: Phoebe Bitler, Amanda Burkard-Sell, Senator Schwank, Lucine Sihelnik, and Sandy Witman for reading to 15 K-2 classes at 10th & Green Elementary Schools. According to the Reading Specialists, the students are really enjoying the readers, the book and activity!

C. National Ag Essay Contest - Jamie Klein

Senator Schwank thanked Jamie Klein for handling this project.

Bill Hughes thanked the Berks Country/Reading Eagle for great coverage of the contest.

VIII. Other B.A.R.N. Items

- Received first check from Amazon Smile - \$9.17
- Chamber Membership fee is \$420; for an additional \$42, recognition will be given on its website
- Roger Bowman asked who is going to represent Berks County on the Ag Board of Directors; Senator Schwank will look into this.

IX. Berks Packing Company - John Buckley, Plant Manager

- This is Berks Packing Company's 84th year in business.
- It supplies its meat products to all Wawa Stores.
- The Company provides private labels for many companies (i.e. Weis and Giant).

Berks Packing Company – Jim Boylan, Owner

- Thanked John Buckley for his service.
- It was noted that the equipment for the slicing lines is a \$2.2 million dollar investment.

X. Recessed for lunch and tour of plant at 12:48 p.m.

XI. Returned for B.A.R.N. Annual Meeting at 2:33 p.m.

Annual B.A.R.N. Reorganization

1. Reporting of Nominating committee for New Officers and Directors – Jamie Klein

Larry Gelsinger opened nominations.

- Any nominations from the floor?
- None

A motion was made to close the nominations. (Gary Rothermel/Carl Brown)

Ballots were handed out for voting.

Reporting of Nominating committee for New Officers and Directors Resumed:

- Ballots were counted and the following are the newly elected B.A.R.N. Board members: Phoebe Bitler, Roger Bowman, Jamie Klein, Betsy Sattazahn, and Sandy Witman.

2. Elections

President Larry Gelsinger advised the B.A.R.N. Board of Directors will meet prior to next the next meeting to elect officers.

3. Adjourn Annual Meeting

A motion was made to adjourn. (Jarod Fisher/Gary Rothermel)

Meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Bartsch, Secretary