

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

(DRAFT) Minutes of the May 23, 2017 Meeting

1:00 PM – Berks County Agricultural Center

Leesport, PA 19533

In attendance

B.A.R.N. Members:

Adopt-An-Acre – Ted Noble

Berks County Conservation District – Tammy Bartsch

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

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger and Nancy Bowman

Davis, Ray

Ephrata National Bank – Jarod Fisher

F.M. Browns' Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown

Fulton Bank – Keith Silfee

Gelsinger, Larry

Greater Reading Chamber & Economic Development Corp. – Gail Landis

Gunster, Carolyn

Hartman, Valeriano, Magovern & Lutz, P.C. – Chris Hartman

Hopkins, Lloyd

Hughes, Bill

Kauffman, Nettie

Manatawny Creek Winery – Darvin Levensgood

Mullen, Stacy

Ontelaunee Grange – Irv Kauffman

Penn State Extension – Berks County: Greg Gnatt, Mat Haan, Stephanie Shirk, and Dave Wilson

Reading Eagle – Berks Country – Lisa Scheid

Rep. Mark Gillen – Lois Theisinger

Rothermel, Gary

Royer, Bill

Sattazahn, Betsy

Senator Judy Schwank – Jamie Klein

Sihelnik, Lucine

Thun, David

Witman, Sandy

Guests:

Alex Roche

Raechel Sattazahn

USDA FSA – Terry Tracey and Lori Cogley

I. Welcome

Larry Gelsinger, President

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

III. Minutes of the March 23, 2017 Board Meeting

Tammy Bartsch, Secretary

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2017 BARN Board Meeting. (Nettie Kauffman/Lloyd Hopkins)

Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Bill Hughes

**A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report. (Chris Hartman/Bill Royer)
Motion carried.**

V. Election of Officers

There are three positions that nominations are needed for:

President, Treasurer and Ex-Officio

A motion was made to accept the nominations from Jamie Klein for the offices as follows:

Lucine Sihelnik as President, Keith Silfee as Treasurer and Bill Hughes as Ex-Officio (Chris Hartman/Bill Royer)

Motion carried.

Comments: Bank signers are President, Vice President and Treasurer

A motion was made to keep Bill Hughes on as a signer through the transition.

(Tami Hildebrand/ Nettie Kauffman)

Motion carried.

VI. Committees' General Announcements

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

- Hoping to get 40 sponsors: 5 Platinum (\$1,000); 10 Gold (\$500); 10 Silver (\$250); 15 Bronze (\$100)
- Ticket price is \$25.00, tickets will be handed out at July meeting
- Several members agreed to contact potential sponsors
- Donations of beef, turkey, ham and other items were noted

B. 2017 Farm Tour (10th Annual) "Farming Around the Lake" Tami Hildebrand

- Would like to meet with the Farm Tour Committee after today's meeting and strategize
- Three locations have committed, need seven more

VII. New Business

A. What is the future of B.A.R.N. - Bill Hughes

- One of B.A.R.N.'s efforts is Economic Development, we have not done much of that
- Need to increase membership and need reason for someone to join B.A.R.N.
- Need a full time person not just volunteers
- Should put together a strategic plan and present to Commissioners
- Someone should be hired to put a strategic plan together

A motion was made to create a steering committee for strategic planning.

(Bill Royer/Sandy Witman)

Motion carried.

VIII. Old Business

A. National Ag Day Baby – Betsy Sattazahn

- Sandra Manbeck is taking over the project
- Gifts from BARN and the Berks County Society of Farm Women were presented to a baby born at each hospital, Reading and St. Joseph's, on that day.

IX. Guest Speakers

A. AmeriCorps*VISTA – Alex Roche

- Working with Food Hub for one (1) year; formed committee to get local agriculture into the Reading Schools; in March sold cases of apples from Weaver's Orchard to Reading Schools
- Need community partner to continue the Food Hub and would like B.A.R.N. to be that partner

- According to Tami Hildebrand, the Department of Agriculture would be willing to be a Sponsoring Organization
 - Fits economic niche
 - Provides value chain for Bountiful Berks
 - The Food Hub can be taken on by B.A.R.N. and grown into anything it would want it to be.
- A motion was made to become a partner and review liability issues prior to the activation of the program.**
(Chris Hartman/Larry Gelsinger)
Motion carried

B. AgChoice Ag Biz Masters – Raechel Sattazahn

- A brief *PowerPoint* presentation was given providing information about how to participate in the program and what the program requires.

X. Other Items – B.A.R.N. Members Comments/Questions

- Penn State Extension – Greg Gnatt introduced Stephanie Shirk, Client Relationship Manager for Area 9
- **A motion was made to contribute \$500 to be a Root Sponsor of the Penn Street Market (Bill Hughes/Lloyd Hopkins.). Motion carried.**

XI. Adjourn B.A.R.N. Business Meeting

A motion to adjourn was made. (Greg Gnatt/Bill Hughes)

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Tammy Bartsch, Secretary