



BERKS COUNTY *agricultural land* PRESERVATION BOARD

Berks County Agricultural Center
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www.berkspa.gov/departments/agriculture

County Commissioners:

Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair
Michael S. Rivera
Dante Santoni, Jr.

Board Members:

Gregg Eshelman, Chair
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Louise A. Swartley

Ex Officio:

Robert C. Ziegenfus, Ph.D.

Solicitor:

Mark R. Sprow, Esq.

Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board Meeting November 19, 2025, 5:30 p.m. MINUTES

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board was held at the Berks County Agricultural Center on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Board members present: Gregg Eshelman, Steve Mohn, Clyde Myers, Louise Swartley, and Jim Coker.
Staff present: Kim Fies, Executive Director, Amanda Burkard-Sell, Deputy Director, Mary Shah, Agriculture Program Manager, Rachel Painter, Office Support IV, Emily Goense, Agriculture Program Coordinator.

In attendance: Mark Sprow, Esq. Special Counsel for the Board.

Public: None.

Gregg Eshelman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS — None.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2025, meeting. (L. Swartley, S. Mohn)

Discussion: None.

Vote: Motion carried.

III. STATUS OF RECOMMENDATION UPDATES

- A. Burkard-Sell stated that 3 settlements were held on November 6, those being dockets #1623, #0607, and #2406, the last of which being the 80,000-acre farm.
- 5 additional farms that were presented to the State at the August meeting, which are anticipated to settle in December.
- There are 4 farms going to the December State Board meeting, and those are dockets #9833, #1305, #2409, and #2410.
- There are 2 appraisals for review in Executive Session.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Greenwich Township Review

- K. Fies stated that no responses to the letters sent out had been received yet, and that this item will be kept on the agenda in the event that there is any interest in the future.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Conveyance Report

- A. Burkard-Sell stated that there were 5 farms that transferred in compliance, and those are settlements #456.0, #712.0, #331.0, #814.0, and #90.0.
- There are 3 that did not attach the deed correctly and have been contacted for corrective deed, and those are settlements #448.0, #340., and #338.0.

VI. DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

A. Easement Modifications

- K. Fies reminded the Board that ag structures do not need an official Board motion, but that staff does ask to be notified about them, so that they may be put on the agenda and so documented.
 - Ag Structure — L.P.390.0 — Coker
 - 20'x64' soft sided building for animal and commodity storage.

B. Upcoming Events

- K. Fies let the Board know that the annual Tire Collection is tomorrow, November 20th, and that the event will be held until noon. An additional \$2,000 was given to the event by the Berks County Conservation District.
- K. Fies also let the Board know about the school groups that were hosted at the Ag Center as part of the Berks Business Education Coalition, and those schools were Conrad Weiser, Schuylkill Valley, and Reading High.
- A. Burkard-Sell also went to South Campus to talk to Reading High students about careers in agriculture.
- There is a tentative date of June 16, 2026, to work with the Farm Bureau for an agriculture night at the Reading Phillies, as well as with Southeast Cattlemen's Association and possibly other organizations
- K. Fies let the Board know about an Ag Listening Session that will be held at two different locations, hosted by Representative Chrissy Houlahan.
- On December 5th, the Reading Royals are hosting an Ag Night, in which the Dairy Princesses will be in attendance.
- K. Fies let the Board know about the success of the Career Fair that was held on November 13th at the Leesport Farmer's Market.

VII. CITIZEN COMMENT / BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR — None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: A motion was made to approve offering the cap of \$2,800 an acre to docket #2503 and #2508. (J. Coker, J. Meck)

Discussion: None.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM. (J. Coker, J. Meck)

Discussion: None.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Painter
Office Support IV