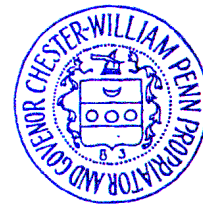


THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS  
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AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
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MINUTES: Regular Monthly Meeting  
Chester County Agricultural Development Council  
January 4, 2023

Hybrid Meeting  
Government Services Center Room 270

**Council Members present in Person:** Dr. Barbara Dallap-Schaer, Vice Chair; Jodi Gauker; Ryan Heenan; Vince Pompo; Cynthia Petrone-Hudock; Gary Westlake, Chair.

**Council Members present via Zoom:** Chris Alonzo; Tim Ferris; Casi Long; Adam Mowery.

**Council Members absent:** Bill Schick

**Staff present in Person:** Ann Lane; Nancy Shields.

**Visitors present in person:** None

**Staff present via Zoom:** Wes Bruckno, Brian O' Leary

**Visitors present via Zoom:** None

**Call to Order:** Gary Westlake called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

**Action Items:**

A motion to approve the November minutes was made by Ms. Gauker, seconded by Ms. Long, was passed.

**Updates, New Business, Other Business:**

**Communications and Outreach:**

Ms. Lane introduced the board to Ms. Shields, the new administrative coordinator who will be assisting with Ag Council meetings.

Ms. Lane gave a synopsis of the Farmer of the Year ceremony with feedback from Ms. Petrone-Hudock, Dr. Dallap-Schaer and Mr. Pompo who were also in attendance. Plans for next year include holding the event earlier in the fall, using a board-submitted nominee, providing talking points, and reconfiguring the event to achieve specific goals.

Ms. Lane discussed the most popular social media posts since the last meeting. She requested assistance from the board for future "Meet the Maker" profile suggestions and connections.

Ms. Lane relayed the recent budget increase from \$9,000 to \$13,500 for next year's farm guide. She also recommended using any budgetary surplus to support the 2023 Good Food Fest with a table reservation. Ms. Gauker supported the idea and gave personal testimony about the success of the event. She updated the board about a recent grant AgConnect received to support the event. Mr. O'Leary agreed that the Ag Council should

financially support the event. Ms. Long suggested developing family-friendly learning activities to help draw in passers-by.

Ms. Lane updated the board on plans for youth outreach with Highspire Hills Farm, namely Farm Tales at the Coatesville Library.

Ms. Lane shared plans for Rural Roads Safety Week outreach in partnership with Farm Bureau and CCPC's Transportation Department. The board agreed a layered approach would be best for future road safety outreach with possible audiences including beginning drivers and school districts. Dr. Dallap-Schaer, Ms. Petrone-Hudock and Mr. Ferris suggested contacts. Mr. Westlake discussed what Farm Bureau had done previously. Mr. Pompo suggested a public safety angle.

#### Ag Plan Implementation:

Ms. Lane walked the board through the differences between Proposal One and Proposal Two to determine a possible path forward for collaboration with the Chester County Economic Development Council through the creation of a working group or center of excellence.

Mr. Pompo expressed support for a new entity being housed within CCEDC.

Mr. Westlake, Dr. Dallap-Schaer and Ms. Petrone-Hudock discussed the need to incentivize partners to encourage them to participate in ag plan implementation while being sensitive to their individual priorities and work programs.

Mr. O' Leary encouraged the board to develop a regular reporting process to the Commissioners' Office, perhaps quarterly.

Mr. Pompo suggested a regular audience for Mr. Westlake at Commissioners Meetings.

Mr. Pompo made a motion to support Proposal Two's overall working group concept, with the need for Ag Council and CCEDC staff to provide additional documentation covering specific deliverables and a two-year timeline. Dr. Dallap-Schaer seconded the motion. Ms. Gauker abstained from the vote. The motion was approved.

Ms. Petrone-Hudock and Ms. Gauker talked about the need for CCEDC to provide a list of deliverables and a clear distinction between what services will be included for the fee charged.

#### Municipal Update:

Mr. Bruckno provided a synopsis of a proposed equine facility in East Nantmeal Township. Ms. Gauker expressed concern with some of the recommendations in the review letter concerning riparian buffer vegetation and fertilizer choice. Mr. O' Leary said they would consider adjusting the wording on similar recommendations going forward, as well as providing additional information for letter recipients on how to implement any recommendations.

Mr. Bruckno presented research he and Ms. Krummrich had done the year prior on municipal ordinances and comp plans that could be used to develop tailored tools to encourage ag-friendly zoning, a strategy identified in the ag plan.

Mr. Pompo encouraged staff to be mindful of working with municipalities to amend zoning as opposed to approaching them in a critical or public fashion.

Ms. Lane presented two examples of existing Planning products the Ag Council might use as a template for their outreach. The board expressed support for Ag Council staff to pursue the idea further and develop a tool they could respond to at the next board meeting.

Directors Report:

There was no public comment.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 9:30 AM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM by Mr. Westlake. A motion was made by Ms. Gauker and seconded by Mr. Heenan.

Respectfully Submitted,



Hillary R. Krummrich, Esq.  
Secretary

HRK/sw

Note: Complete reports are a part of the Agricultural Development Council files and can be reviewed at the Planning Commission Office.