



# THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS  
Marian D. Moskowitz  
Josh Maxwell  
Michelle Kichline

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
Government Services Center, Suite 270  
601 Westtown Road  
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(610) 344-6285 Fax (610) 344-6515

Chester County Agricultural Development Council  
Government Services Center – Suite 270

Hybrid Meeting  
November 1, 2023

Join the webinar: <https://chesco-org.zoom.us/j/97515636971?pwd=STV3eDVNTWFWFuQUZxQUVYUUhCcjRNZz09>

## AGENDA

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Chair’s welcome

*Chair*

### 2. ACTION ITEMS

B. Approval of Ag Council Meeting Minutes – September 6, 2023

*Chair*

C. Seek volunteers for nomination committee

D. Approval of 2024 board meeting dates

### 3. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

E. Board membership & reappointments

*Ann Lane*

F. Ag Plan Implementation

*Ann Lane*

G. Ag Awards

*Ann Lane*

1) Event recap

2) Follow up

H. Communications & Outreach

*Ann Lane*

1) Social media highlights

2) Events

3) Farm Guide update

4) America 250<sup>th</sup> participation

I. Municipal Update

1) Ag-friendly zoning outreach

*Wes Bruckno*

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

### 5. ADJOURNMENT

*Chair*



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MINUTES: Regular Monthly Meeting  
Chester County Agricultural Development Council  
September 6, 2023

Hybrid Meeting  
Government Services Center Room 270

**Council Members present in Person:** Gary Westlake, Chair; Dr. Barbara Dallap-Schaer, Vice Chair; Tim Ferris.

**Council Members present via Zoom:** Adam Mowery; Cynthia Petrone-Hudock; Ryan Heenan; Vince Pompo.

**Council Members absent:** Chris Alonzo; Casi Long; Bill Schick.

**Staff present in Person:** Carol Stauffer; Ann Lane; West Bruckno; Paul Fritz; Rachael Griffith; Gene Huller; Nancy Shields.

**Visitors present in person:** Gary Smith.

**Staff present via Zoom:** None.

**Visitors present via Zoom:** Erik Walschburger; Jordan Peek; Jodi Gauker, Gary Smith.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of the Agriculture Development Council held in person at the Government Services Center Suite 270 and via Zoom audio/video on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 was called to order at 9:31. A.M. by Vice Chair Dr. Barbara Dallap-Schaer.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MAY 3, 2023 MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WAS MADE BY MR. POMPO, SECONDED BY MR. HEENAN, AND WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COUNCIL.

**DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**Ag Plan Implementation:**

Ms. Griffith reported that as part of CCPC’s work program, the Sustainability division will work with Ms. Lane to help implement the Ag Economic Development Plan by assembling steering committee/focus groups of agricultural representatives to identify needs for sustainability reporting and enhancing sustainable practices for increasing product marketability and competitiveness. Ms. Griffith provided the board with a proposed scope of work for the support for environmental sustainability enhancements in Chester County agricultural businesses.

Mr. Walschburger reported that the county is still working on how to best support the agricultural community outreach efforts. Mr. Walschburger can give an update at the next ADC board meeting.

Mr. Fritz reported on a proposal of a farm suitability tool which is divided into four categories: land characteristics including prime farmland soils, existing cropland, existing preserved land, and environmental constraints; municipal

policies including ag-friendly zoning and ag security areas; parcel data including ChescoViews data; and economic context including county ag characteristics and farm product guide data. Mr. Ferris suggested adding average rainfall data and Mr. Westlake suggested adding growing degree days data. Mr. Ferris also mentioned that CCPC should look at a tool at beescape.org that has similar data.

Ms. Gauker is working full time with Penn State Extension but will again be facilitating the ag economic development plan through her part-time work with CCEDC through December. To get back on track after the summer hiatus, Ms. Gauker will be facilitating a meeting with partners (CCEDC, PSU Extension, Parks & Preservation, and ADC) to determine the implementation schedule for the plan. Ms. Gauker announced that Jordan Peek is CCEDC's new ag program manager. Engaging the private sector will help with the plan's successful implementation. A proposal will be created for adding grant writing back into the plan as per Ag Council board member request

#### Communication and Outreach:

Ms. Lane reported on the success of social media outreach over the summer months. The Farm Guide topic performed the best. Other successful posts this summer include the local farm map, the National Farmers Market week, and the Kimberton Fair awards. Ms. Lane tabled at and attended many events this summer including the Farm Tales program, Exton Day, Taste of the Farm, three Town Tours and Village Walks, lantern fly press conference, Kimberton Fair, America 250<sup>th</sup>, and hosted a Wellness activity for county staff. There are several events coming up including Good Food Fest, Lundale Fall Festival, and the Unionville County Fair. For all the events, CCPC graphics staff developed two youth coloring sheets, a QR coded map, seasonal product calendar, and a double-sided rack card combining bicycle & pedestrian safety with sharing the road with farmers.

Next, Ms. Lane reported that the updated Farm Guide has had great feedback on the new name and design, 14,000 copies were printed, and there were over 60 distribution points. Ms. Lane coordinated with Getaways on Display program to place The Chester County Farm Guide at all highways' welcome centers. Ms. Lane mentioned developing a new trifold brochure with just the map and pick-your-own farm listings.

#### AG Awards:

Ms. Lane reported that the Miller family is receiving the Farmers of the Year award and Dr. Kevin Hicks is receiving the Ag Service award. The awards program will be hosted at the Miller family farm on October 16. After the awards ceremony and farm tour, Ms. Lane plans to have a meeting with the Chester County Commissioners about how to help the agriculture industry succeed and prosper.

#### Municipal Update:

Mr. Fritz reported that the graphics team has created an internal dashboard of interactive maps highlighting the six ag-zoning outreach areas which include: objectives promote ag preservation, designated or specialized ag district, secondary farm business allowed, ag uses permitted by right, controlled environmental ag, and agritainment allowed. A summary map was also discussed which showed which 22 municipalities have been covered. Mr. Bruckno noted that most of the 22 municipalities are in the western part of the county. The next steps will include municipalities in the eastern part of the county. Mr. Ferris suggested adding protected open space designations to the outreach areas. Mr. Bruckno reported on a West Bradford amendment allowing an agricultural day camp as a farming accessory use where students can attend during the day to experience what farming is really like.

Ms. Stauffer reported on agricultural municipal ordinance resource guidance. CCPC has guidance in three areas including wineries, farmers' markets, and controlled environment ag. CCPC eTools provide subject area reviews, issues, implementing suggestions, successful examples, and links to other related resources. More information can be found on all CCPC eTools here: <https://www.chescoplanning.org/MuniCorner/AllTools.cfm>. The ag eTools page also includes links to an ag friendly municipality flyer and an ag in developed communities guide. Mr. Westlake suggested adding a link on the ADC website to the CCPC eTools webpage. Mr. Westlake also suggested adding a timber harvesting eTool and/or fact sheet. Mr. Ferris discussed bee keeping issues and current bee laws. Lastly, Ms. Stauffer showed the resources on the ADC website under the Farming Facts which include introduction to ag for municipal officials, ACRE info sheet, and a backyard poultry info sheet. Other farming fact info sheets on the ADC website include dairy, mushroom, equine, field crops, and the ag census. The ADC website can be found at <https://www.chescofarming.org/>

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

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

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 11:30 AM WAS MADE BY DR. DALLAP-SCHAER, SECONDED BY MR. FERRIS, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COUNCIL.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Ann Lane*

ADC Interim Director

AL/ncs

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

DRAFT



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TO: Legal Advertising

Daily Local News

FROM: Ann Lane, Interim Director

Chester County Agricultural Development Council

RE: 2024 Schedule of Chester County Agricultural Development Council Meetings

Please publish the following in the Legal Notice section of the Daily Local News as soon as possible.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2024 regularly scheduled meetings of the Agricultural Development Council will be held on the days shown below from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester, Pennsylvania. Information about the meetings, agendas, and links to join meetings virtually, when offered, will be available on the Agricultural Development Council website [www.chescofarming.org](http://www.chescofarming.org) prior to the meetings. Any changes will be duly advertised. All meetings are open to the public. If you are a person with a disability and wish to attend and require an auxiliary aid, service, or other accommodation to observe or participate in the proceedings, please contact Ann Lane at 610-344-6285 to discuss how the Agricultural Development Council may best accommodate your needs.

The 2024 meeting dates are as follows:

- January 3
- March 6
- May 1
- September 4
- November 6

Please send proof of publication and bill to the attention of Ann Lane, Interim Director of Agricultural Development, Chester County Planning Commission, Government Services Center, Suite 270, 601 Westtown Road, P.O. Box 2747, West Chester, PA 19380-0990.