



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS
Josh Maxwell
Marian D. Moskowitz
Eric Roe

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Government Services Center, Suite 270
601 Westtown Road
P. O. Box 2747
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(610) 344-6285 Fax (610) 344-6515

Chester County Agricultural Development Council
Government Services Center – Suite 270

Hybrid Meeting
March 6, 2024

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 –January 3, 2024

Chair

3. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

C. Ag Plan Implementation

1) Ag Plan Implementation Update

Brian O' Leary

D. Communications, Outreach & Coordination

1) Social media highlights

2) Farm Guide status

3) Ag sustainability survey

4) Rural road safety

Ann Lane

E. Municipal Update

1) West Fallowfield Twp., proposed chicken house, LD-12-23-17930

2) Ag-friendly zoning outreach

3) Agritainment etool

Wes Bruckno

F. Ag Council Update

Erik Walschburger

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

5. ADJOURNMENT

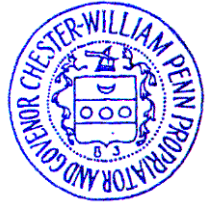
Chair

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MINUTES: Regular Monthly Meeting
Chester County Agricultural Development Council
January 3, 2024

Hybrid Meeting
Government Services Center Room 270

Council Members present in Person: Gary Westlake, Chair; Tim Ferris: Ryan Heenan; Casi Long; Cynthia Petrone-Hudock; Vince Pompo.

Council Members present via Zoom: Dr. Barbara Dallap-Schaer, Vice Chair; Adam Mowery.

Council Members absent: Chris Alonzo; Bill Schick.

Staff present in person: Brian O'Leary; Ann Lane; Wes Bruckno; Gene Huller; Beth Cunliffe.

Visitors present in person: Erik Walschburger.

Staff present via Zoom: None.

Visitors present via Zoom: Jordan Peek; Jodi Gauker.

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, January 3, 2024 was called to order at 9:32. A.M. by Chair Mr. Gary Westlake.

ACTION ITEMS:

Appointment of the 2024 Chester County Agriculture Development Council Board Officers:

A MOTION TO APPOINT GARY WESTLAKE CHAIR AND BARBARA DALLAP-SCHAER VICE CHAIR OF THE 2024 CHESTER COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BOARD WAS MADE BY MR. POMPO, SECONDED BY MR. FERRIS, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 1, 2023 MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WAS MADE BY MR. HEENAN, SECONDED BY MS. CYNTHIA PETRONE-HUDOCK, AND WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COUNCIL.

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

Ag Council Update:

Mr. Walschburger coordinated with multiple ag industry stakeholders to see how the county should be supporting the agriculture industry and what the role of the ADC should be. Mr. Walschburger is working on a proposal to support his findings that the county's main role should be promotion by sharing information while still implementing the Ag Plan. Mr. Walschburger will present the proposal to the commissioners for comment and will report back to the ADC board before March's board meeting.

Ag Plan Implementation:

Ms. Gauker summarized the following CCEDC's December stakeholder report sections: Agricultural Markets; Business and Financing; Education and Outreach; Labor and Workforce; Land Access; and Zoning and Land Use. Ms. Lane will send a PDF of the report to the ADC board for comments. The ADC board would like an updated PDF report monthly.

Ms. Peek reported that the Farm to School USDA grant is at a smaller scale and is not currently looking at a food hub. Food hub research is beginning. CCEDC's goal is to work on local producer connections, create an ag education program, encourage local purchasing by the community, and create after school events around local food. State funded grants that support local purchasing will be available in 2024.

Ms. Lane reported that the Sustainability Taskforce meeting hosted by CCPC was a great success bringing together many partners who expressed their enthusiasm for sustainability. The main challenge is to see what the partners are currently doing, how to communicate this to all partners, and how partners can work together. A survey will be sent to all who attended.

Next, Ms. Lane reported that ADC is working on a central location to host and curate funding information. Board members asked for Chester County stickers and to have a bigger presence at agricultural events through larger signage/banners, QR codes, demonstrations, animal interactions, fair exhibitor funding, etc.

Communication and Outreach:

Ms. Lane reported that Good Food Fest was well attended and noted that ADC should continue sponsoring this event with a greater presence. Several boxes of farm guides and cookbooks were distributed along with great conversations with the public.

Next, Ms. Lane reported on the success of social media outreach over the last couple of months. The Thanksgiving posts about how to support farmers and pumpkin recycling were very popular.

Lastly, Ms. Lane reported that she participated as an agritainment project advisor on a West Virginia University Extension-led research project.

Municipal Update:

Mr. Bruckno reported that customized letters had been mailed to 22 municipalities regarding promoting their ag-friendly zoning ordinances. Letters will be sent to seven more municipalities in January. Mr. Bruckno displayed and summarized an internal ag-friendly zoning analysis webpage.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

Ms. Lane recognized and thanked Chris Alonzo for his service as an Agricultural Development Council Board member and will be presenting him with a plaque.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 11:30 AM WAS MADE BY MR. HEENAN, SECONDED BY MS. LONG, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COUNCIL.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann lane

Secretary

AL/ncs

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