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## **CENTRE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD**

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### **MEETING AGENDA**

**7:30 pm Thursday**

**July 29, 2021**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

May 27, 2021

#### **AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

##### **Updates on the following:**

Pauline E. Cooper Estate farm approved; awaiting closing

Larry F. and Suzanne M. Harpster farm survey completed

Recommendations for successor to Frederick Moore

ASA archive updates: follow-up from municipalities

Education and communication projects

2021 PACE Ranked Waitlist

- Benuel Zook farm application status (#2 on the 2021 PACE ranked list, but on hold until notification from the executors of his estate)
- Leo and Bernard Corl application status
- Potential third applicant

Financials

**Recommended action on these items:** None

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **David Burket Farm, 2021 PACE Applicant #1. Score: 77.367, 19.94 ranked acres**

**Narrative:** David Burket's parcel is located at the intersection of West Pine Grove Road and Deibler Road in Ferguson Township (24-008-,008A). Though only 19.94 ranked acres, the farm meets the minimum criteria for the PACE program because the property is contiguous to the Larry, Sue and Dawn Harpster farm preserved in 2018 (24-008-,002). Allyson Ush, Chesapeake Bay Technician in the Centre County Conservation District Office, accompanied Centre County Agland Preservation Coordinator Diana Griffith on a stewardship site visit to the farm on June 28. They found the farm to be immaculately maintained and compliant with a conservation plan. They met Mr. Burket and were joined by the farm's operator Kirk Behrer, who is growing corn on the property. (Mr. Behrer owns and farms nearby parcel 24-008-,001.)

The Burket farm's soil values raw score is 90.126. More than 50 percent of the farm's soils are in Capability Classes 1 – IV.

Mr. Burket has an Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control (AG E&S) Plan on file through Mr. Behrer, but the NRCS has no record of a conservation plan on file for this parcel. Dated April 2018, it was prepared by our Conservation District office's dedicated plan writer Tom Blair. Both Ally Ush of the Conservation District Office and Andrea Reiner of the PA Bureau of Farmland Preservation advised that the AG E&S plan is sufficient for compliance with their conservation plan requirements – if the County Board agrees that it is.

Mr. Behrer's AG E&S Plan for the parcel and Tax Parcel Map are attached.

**Recommended Action:** The Board will vote to accept Mr. Behrer's AG E&S Plan as the conservation plan for Mr. Burket's farm.

**Recommended Action:** The Board will vote to authorize an appraisal for the Burket farm, parcel number 24-008-,008A

### **Nancy and Webb Miller Farm, 2021 PACE Applicant #3. Score: 75.161, 62.33 ranked acres**

#### **Narrative:**

Centre County Agland Preservation Coordinator Diana Griffith and Allyson Ush, Chesapeake Bay Technician in the Centre County Conservation District Office, paid a stewardship site visit to the farm on July 14. The 84-acre **Nancy and Webb Miller** farm is located on Harpswell Lane off South Nixon Road in Ferguson Township (24-004-,033A).

The conservation plan on file is that of preserved farm landowner Todd Irvin, the Millers' neighbor, who is their farm operator. Mr. Irvin is growing corn, soybeans, wheat, and snap beans on the Miller farm. Todd farms a number of our preserved properties in the area, including the nearby Ishler and Fleck farms. The Miller Farm is close to these and to Elwin Stewart's and Barbara Christ's Happy Valley Winery preserved farm next to the Foxpointe Subdivision.

The Millers' soil values raw score is 92.419. More than 50 percent of the farm's soils are in Capability Classes 1 – IV.

Mr. Irvin's Conservation Plan and the property's tax parcel map are attached.

**Recommended Action:** The Board will vote to authorize an appraisal for the Nancy and Webb Miller farm.

#### **ITEMS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**The next Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Thursday, September 23. Because of the Centre County Grange Fair and Penn State's Ag Progress Days taking place in August, there will be no August meeting.**