

MINUTES – March 16, 2026

The Union County Agricultural Land Preservation Board met for a scheduled meeting at 7:00 pm. on the above date in the Union County Government Building at 155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg, Pa.

Board members present: Terry Snoddy, Ivan Yoder, Dave Masser, Wayne Stahl, & Dennis Keefer

Board members absent: Dennis Hess

Staff Present: Greg Bonsall

Guests: Mr. Jonathan DeWald

CALL TO ORDER: Program Director, Greg Bonsall, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the January 20, 2026 meeting were presented, **no action taken**.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Joanna Hoover – pending closing.
- 2) Kyle Stoltzfus #1 – pending closing.
- 3) Board Reorganization
 - a) Dennis Keefer was appointed by the Union County Commissioners to serve as board chairman through December 31, 2026
 - b) Union County Commissioners accepted nominations for Dave Masser, and Wayne Stahl to represent the Union County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. Currently, the board has one vacant position.
 - i A motion was made by Dave Masser and second by Ivan Yoder to accept board members as presented; motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) State and County Funding Allocation
 - a. Greg presented that the total 2026 state & county funding is \$258,444.46
 - b. A balance from 2025 of approximately \$680,000 exists.
 - c. Total 2026 funds are approximately \$940,000.
- 2) Ranking Approval
 - a. Following a closed application period (only existing farms could re-apply), there are 43 farms on the backlog list
 - b. A list of rankings was presented based on program criteria

- c. A motion was made by Ivan Yoder and second by Wayne Stahl to approve the 2026 ranking summary; motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Approach for Appraisals
- a. Program funding should allow easements to be placed on the top two farms on the ranking summary (Steven Hoover #2 and Merlin Martin)
 - b. A motion was made by Dave Masser and second by Wayne Stahl to approach the top two farms for appraisals; motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Program Manual Review
- a. Mr. Jonathan Dewald, Esquire McNerney, Page, Vanderlin & Hall spoke about updates to the program manual
 - i. Deed – Legal description is not always incorporated
 - ii. Rural Enterprise – working to address the program intentions
 - iii. Audit Farms – need to put a process in place
 - 1. Mr. Dewald is going to continue working on a review of the program manual and will present suggestions at a later date.
 - b. A motion was made by Wayne Stahl and second by Terry Snoddy to continue working with Mr. Dewald to improve our program; passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE:

HANDOUTS: 2026 Ranking Summary

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME: Monday, May 13, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Gregory Bonsall