

## Operations Minutes February 16, 2021

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams Live pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

The following matters was discussed:

1. County Action Plan for the Chesapeake Bay Update/Next Steps – Ashley Showers, Berks County Planning Commission and Dean Druckenmiller, Executive Director of Berks County Conservation District.  
Ms. Showers reported according to the Department of Environmental Protection’s schedule, the County should be engaging a consultant for the development of a County Action Plan (“CAP”), and informed the Commissioners that the Berks County Conservation District has agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks and the Berks County Conservation District to expedite the RFP process for the development of the CAP.  
Mr. Druckenmiller agreed the Conservation District is willing to partner with the County to keep the process moving forward in a timely manner and to conduct the RFP process. After discussion, Ms. Showers asked the Board to approve moving forward with the MOU.  
Commissioner Barnhardt motioned to support moving forward with a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks and the Berks County Conservation District, subject to final review and approval by the Berks County and Conservation District legal teams. The MOU will be brought before the Board of Commissioners for formal action and execution at a public meeting. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Seeing no further discussion, the motion carried.
  
2. Tri-County Passenger Rail Committee / 3 Berks County Committee Appointments – This discussion is a follow up to the February 2, 2021 Operations meeting where the Board agreed to support and participate in the Tri-County Passenger Rail Committee, and to name three members to that Committee. Commissioner Leinbach reported Ms. Shupp Menet had separate conversations with each Commissioner as to who they would like to appoint, and shared the following names: Pamela Shupp Menet, as Berks County Director of Economic Development; Commissioner Christian Y. Leinbach; and Jim Gerlach, President of the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance and a former U.S. Congressman who represented Berks, Chester, and Montgomery counties.  
Commissioner Barnhardt said it is important to him that we have pier to pier representation with our sister counties when naming members to the Committee, and agrees with individuals so named.  
Commissioner Rivera agreed to naming Ms. Shupp Menet, Commissioner Leinbach and Mr. Gerlach.  
After discussion, Commissioner Rivera made a motion to have Commissioner Leinbach, Pam Shupp Menet and Jim Gerlach represent Berks County on the Tri-County Passenger Rail Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt. Seeing no further discussion, the motion carried.

Operations Meeting

February 16, 2021

Commissioner Leinbach reported there will be a meeting February 22, 2021 with all three counties and to see whether or not there is unity among all three counties to move forward with the Passenger Rail Authority.

Comments - None

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt to adjourn. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Rivera, and the meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



---

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk