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Awards Given for Commitment to Conserving Pennsylvania's Natural Resources

(State College, PA) - The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD) hosted a conservation awards program to acknowledge efforts of individuals to further the activities and accomplishments of conservation districts on a statewide basis. The Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation District Director Excellence Award, Conservation District Employee Excellence Award, the PACD President's Award, and the Legislator Recognition Award were presented on July 20th in State College, PA.

The Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation District Director Excellence Award is given to a conservation district director or associate director for his or her outstanding volunteer efforts that have furthered the activities and accomplishments of conservation districts on a statewide basis. The 2010 award was presented to Clair J. Dumm from Cambria County. Mr. Dumm was hired by the conservation district in 1970 and eventually became the Cambria County District Manager, a position he held until his retirement in 1996. Upon retirement Mr. Dumm continued to serve the conservation district as a director. During his tenure as an employee and a district board member, Mr. Dumm sought expansion of conservation district programming and funding for the county's environmental protection efforts.

The Conservation District Employee Excellence Award is given to a conservation district employee for his or her outstanding efforts that have furthered the activities and accomplishments of conservation districts on a statewide basis. The award was presented to Craig Morgan, recently retired Schuylkill County Manager. When Mr. Morgan became district manager it had two employees. Under his supervision the office grew to ten employees and continued its emphasis on soil and water conservation incorporating the Chesapeake Bay Program, Environmental Education, Farmland Preservation, Nutrient Management, the Adopt a Stream Program, Abandoned Mine Drainage, and the Erosion and Sediment Control Program.

The PACD President's Award was selected by PACD President MaryAnn Warren. The award is given to an individual, organization, or agency for their outstanding efforts that have resulted in furthering the accomplishments of the non-profit organization, PACD. President Warren presented the award to Glenn Seidel, the Berks County Conservation District Chairman. Mr. Seidel has volunteered an incredible amount of hours to meet with various individuals and groups as he led the charge to reorganize the Berks County Conservation District. Through his vision a transition team was assembled and reorganization occurred without interruption of services for Berks County citizens.

There were two recipients of the PACD Legislator Recognition Award, an award given to Legislator(s) who are recognized for their outstanding efforts furthering the activities and accomplishments of conservation districts or the PACD on a statewide basis. Senator Pat Vance (Cumberland County) and Representative Ron Miller were the award recipients. Senator Pat Vance has supported conservation districts during her entire career in the PA House of

Representatives and the PA Senate. She regularly meets with the Cumberland County Conservation District concerning conservation activities and strongly supports the local Envirothon. Recently Senator Vance was instrumental in securing \$1.5 million in state funding to restore a dam and spillway at the Opossum Lake.

Representative Ron Miller (York County) has long-served conservation districts and their programs to promote environmental stewardship. Representative Miller assists at York County's Envirothon events and has authored or co-sponsored numerous pieces of legislation to facilitate conservation district activities including amendments to the Conservation District Law, mitigation of flood hazards, and establishing dedicated fund for conservation districts.

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PACD, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization representing Pennsylvania's sixty-six conservation districts. For more information on the PACD Conservation Awards Program or soil and water conservation visit www.pacd.org.