

**PACD Executive Council Meeting
Ramada Conference Center, State College, PA
January 19, 2012**

Call to Order

PACD President MaryAnn Warren called the meeting to order at 9:11 am.

Roll Call – Jack Tressler, PACD Secretary

PACD Secretary Jack Tressler called the roll. There were 44 conservation districts represented, which represented a quorum

Reading of the Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

PACD Secretary Jack Tressler presented the minutes of the preceding meeting on July 12, 2011 for approval.

It was moved by Don Koontz (Mercer) and seconded by Cheryl Brobst (Columbia) to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion carried.

It was moved by Bill McFadden (Lehigh) and seconded by Bob Ritchey (Cambria) to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

President's Report

PACD President MaryAnn Warren reported that she is pleased with the open communication between the PACD Executive Board, staff, and members. She noted that we have members in good standing this fiscal year that were not in good standing in the past, and this is a trend that we hope will continue, thanks to the efforts of the PACD Executive Board. She reported that she has learned a great deal in her time as President, and that all of our members and board members bring a different perspective to the table, and should share their thoughts and views.

NACD Director's Report

NACD Director Patricia Sueck thanked everyone for allowing her to serve as their representative to NACD. She has made great friends and learned a great deal in her term as representative for Pennsylvania. She encouraged everyone to support their state association and their national association. She provided a copy of the NACD Board Briefs to those in attendance.

Pat reported that she will be attending the NACD Annual Meeting, which will take place in Las Vegas, Nevada January 29 to February 1. The NACD Legislative Conference will take place in Washington DC March 19-20, 2012. The Northeast Region Meeting will take place this year in New York state.



Special Report from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)

NACD Chief Executive Officer John Larson reported that he is pleased to be here. He is fortunate to be able to work with many wonderful people in the conservation districts and NACD staff. Conservation districts are an effective, local, delivery system and NACD is focused on ensuring that conservation districts across the country have the resources that they need to effectively deliver their programs and conservation practices. NACD is here to assist you as conservation districts. In order to do that, the association needs to hear from their members and know what members want and need. In order to effectively advocate for conservation districts, NACD needs to hear from members. The Farm Bill is looking at cuts, and conservationists need to be active in ensuring that those cuts don't grow, particularly in funding for conservation.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Robert Maiden thanked John Larson with NACD for coming to Pennsylvania. Robert provided highlights from the PACD Mid-Year Report for Fiscal Year 2011/2012, covering the period from July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

- PACD's top legislative priority is dedicated funding for conservation districts via the impact fee.
- The Association has focused on legislative messaging to achieve legislative goals, focusing on positive local success stories.
- With regard to policy, our focus has been on consensus building, including the Oil and Gas resolution, the top five priorities for PACD, and other issues.
- Upcoming changes to the PACD policy process are designed to give districts the time to review information.
- PACD represents conservation districts at many meetings throughout the year.
- The Association provides training for conservation districts based on district needs.
- The educational Mini-Grant Program continues, and Manure Management Manual Mini-Grants are now available.
- Public relations and outreach work continues to promote the good work of Pennsylvania's conservation districts, including the conservation district booth at the PA Farm Show. The testimonial program is designed to promote positive local success stories for conservation districts by using these stories as the basis for outreach to legislators.
- PACD is working to fill open positions for the Engineering Assistance Program, and has hired Terry Fisher as the new Application Developer for PENNVEST. He will be providing a presentation at the upcoming SCC meeting.

MaryAnn recommended that those in attendance share the mid-year report with other staff and board members.

Treasurer's Report

PACD Treasurer Kenneth Meck presented his report. Copies of the financial information were provided to members for their review.

It was moved by Kenneth Meck (Lancaster) and second by Linda Cioppa (Pike) to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion carried.

PACD Audit FY 2010-2011

PACD Treasurer Kenneth Meck presented the PACD audit for Fiscal Year 2010/2011.

It was moved by Kenneth Meck (Lancaster) and seconded by James Bence (Beaver) to accept the PACD audit for Fiscal Year 2010/2011. Motion carried.

Old and Unfinished Business

Robert Maiden reported that the Employee Policy Handbook by McNees Wallace and Nurick has been completed under budget and was distributed to the membership.

Reports, Motions, and Resolutions from the PACD Conservation Committee

- Proposed PACD Oil and Gas Permit Resolution

It was moved by Linda Cioppa (Pike) and seconded by Michael Lovegreen (Bradford) to approve the following policy:

Whereas, in March 18, 2009 the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) transferred responsibility for reviews and permitting associated with Chapter 102 and 105 regulations of the PA Clean Streams Law from conservation districts to Regional Office Oil and Gas Management Programs; and

Whereas, many communities, legislators, and organizations such as the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania conservation organizations, and conservation districts have expressed support for the transfer back to conservation districts of those responsibilities; and

Whereas, conservation districts understand the need for energy development without compromising water quality protection; and

Whereas, conservation districts and DEP have a long history of cooperation and partnership in the administration of Chapters 102 and 105; and

Whereas, conservation districts are recognized locally and statewide as having the responsibility and expertise in administering Chapters 102 and 105; and

Whereas, conservation districts have program-ready staff available to assist DEP; therefore be it

Resolved, that PACD supports conservation district resumption of Chapter 102 and/or 105 responsibilities by the DEP rescinding the March 18, 2009 memo; and be it further

Resolved, that a working group comprised of conservation district, DEP and SCC representatives be formed to discuss issues that arise and are relevant to district resumption.

A hand vote was requested. Motion carried with 42 for, none against, and two abstentions.

Reports, Motions, and Resolutions from District Employees

- District Staff Service Awards

It was moved by Sandy Thompson (McKean) and seconded by Edward Zinser (Sullivan) to approve the following motion:

That PACD present service awards to conservation district employees, in the form of lapel pins, beginning at 10 years and in increments of 5 years thereafter, with each district determining years of service, up to a total cost of \$2,000 annually beginning in 2012.

A hand vote was called for. Motion passed with 41 in favor and 3 opposed.

Reports, Motions, and Resolutions from Education and Outreach

No motions were presented.

Reports, Motions, and Resolutions from Legislative

- State Budget Request

It was moved by Ron Rohall (Westmoreland) and seconded by Don Koontz (Mercer) to approve the following recommendation from the PACD Legislative Committee:

That PACD request the same amount for the Fiscal Year 2012/2013 state budget as we requested for the Fiscal Year 2011/2012 state budget, and using a similar format to last year's request.

Motion carried.

Reports, Motions, and Resolutions from Operations

- Update to PACD Policy Handbook

Proposed updates to the PACD Policy Handbook were provided to members for their review.

It was moved by Drew Gilchrist (Montgomery) and seconded by Sandy Thompson (McKean) to approve the proposed updates to the PACD Policy Handbook. Motion carried.

- PACD Top Five Priorities

The proposed top five priorities for PACD were provided to members for their review.

It was moved by Drew Gilchrist (Montgomery) and seconded by Linda Cioppa (Pike) to adopt the following top five priorities for PACD:

1. *Maintain and justify existing funding sources, diversify and increase conservation district funding, and secure dedicated funding for districts.*
2. *Develop overarching principles and/or ideas against which to weigh proposed actions and decisions so that PACD functions to the benefit of conservation districts, and is empowered and unified to be a statewide and national spokesperson/organization for environmental concerns.*
3. *Focus educational efforts and advocacy on raising awareness of the developed broad conservation district principles (priority # 2) to target audiences.*
4. *Advocate for uniformity and consistency across the state in program implementation (training, policy, guidance) in contracted and delegated programs. Further, advocate for conservation district uniformity and consistency in the current reorganization of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.*
5. *Provide technical training and leadership development for district staff and directors.*

Motion carried.

The priorities should be reviewed either annually or every other year.

It was moved by Bill Dietrick (Union) and seconded by Jim Resh (Indiana) that PACD adopt the following sixth priority:

To communicate to the legislature and the governor to increase funding to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to increase staff to enable DEP to fully meet their mandate.

Motion was withdrawn.

- PACD and SCC Co-hosting a Pennsylvania Evening at the Canon Envirothon

It was moved by Drew Gilchrist (Montgomery) and seconded by Sandy Thompson (McKean) to approve the following motion:

That PACD co-host a 'Pennsylvania evening at the Canon Envirothon' with the State Conservation Commission (SCC), at a cost of \$3,000 to PACD and \$3,000 to the SCC.

Motion carried.

- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Bylaws Amendment

The proposed changes to the NACD Bylaws were provided to members for review.

It was moved by Drew Gilchrist (Montgomery) and seconded by Don Koontz (Mercer) to support the proposed changes to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) bylaws. Motion carried.

Reports, Motions, and Resolutions from Ways and Means

1. PACD Dues for Fiscal Year 2012/2013

It was moved by Ken Meck (Lancaster) and seconded by Gretchen Schatschneider (Bucks) to approve the following motion:

That PACD maintain conservation district dues at the current rate for Fiscal Year 2012/2013.

Motion carried.

2. PACD Endowment Fund

It was moved by Ken Meck (Lancaster) and seconded by Harold Kulp (Chester) to approve the following motion:

That PACD apply the balance of the PACD Endowment Fund toward the principle of the PACD mortgage, and eliminate the PACD Endowment Fund.

A hand vote was called for. Motion carried with 25 for and 17 against.

Other

Karl Brown encouraged everyone to stay for the SCC meeting, where they will be discussing the model policy of ag compliance and the PENNVEST program.

Adjournment

It was moved by Drew Gilchrist (Montgomery) and seconded by Earl Brown (Erie) to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 am.