

**PACD Executive Council Meeting  
Ramada Conference Center, State College, PA  
July 12, 2011**

**Call to Order**

PACD President MaryAnn Warren welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**Roll Call**

PACD Secretary Robert Robinson called the roll. There were 43 conservation districts represented, which constituted a quorum.

**Reading of the Minutes of the Preceding Meeting**

PACD Secretary Robert Robinson presented the minutes of the previous meeting for approval.

*It was moved by Bob Ritchey (Cambria) and seconded by Harold Kulp (Chester) to approve the minutes of the preceding meeting on January 20, 2011. Motion carried.*

**President's Report**

PACD President MaryAnn Warren reported that she has learned a great deal in her time as PACD President so far. She has traveled over 5,600 miles for PACD since January, and has enjoyed learning about conservation districts across the state. She thanked everyone for helping her to learn more about our members and conservation districts.

**NACD Director's Report**

NACD Director Patricia Sueck provided the following report:

- She attended the NACD Annual Meeting in February, where she attended the NACD board meeting and helped to pass priorities for 2011.
- Pat encouraged people to keep up with what is happening with NACD and events on the national level. She forwards regular reports from NACD to the PACD e-mail lists.
- There are six new members for Pennsylvania in congress, and Pat encouraged their constituents to be in contact with them.
- PACD President MaryAnn Warren will be helping Pat to contact conservation district chairs across the state.
- Pat will attend the NACD Executive Board meeting and Legislative Conference in Washington DC.

**Executive Director's Report**

PACD Executive Director Robert Maiden provided the following report:

- He thanked everyone for allowing him to be here today, and the PACD staff for coordinating the conference.
- PACD's top priorities are to be attentive to the needs of conservation districts and to achieve dedicated funding.
- Robert reported that he has been traveling to conservation district offices, as well as other meetings across the commonwealth, to build communication between the PACD staff and board and our members. PACD also moved quickly to support dedicated funding for districts through an impact fee, and worked to build a relationship with the new administration. Robert will continue to work to visit conservation districts and listen to their concerns.

### **Treasurer's Report**

PACD Treasurer Samuel Worley presented the treasurer's report.

*It was moved by Ken Meck (Lancaster) and seconded by Blaine Smith (Blair) to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.*

### **Report from the PACD Conservation Committee**

Committee member Robb Piper reported that the committee met with a quorum and:

- Approved the minutes of the previous meeting.
- Received a report on the 2011 PACD Capitol Day Event.
- Received an update on the Chapter 102/NPDES Committee and Delegation Agreement.
- Considered policy on an expedited review fee for PennDOT projects.
- Considered a resolution from the March 2011 PACD South Central Region Meeting.
- Approved policy on a pilot stormwater trading program for consideration by PACD Executive Council.
- Approved a motion for consideration by PACD Executive Council that would reappoint Richard Stumpf with Indiana County Conservation District as PACD representative to the PA Envirothon board.

### **Report from the PACD District Employees Committee**

Committee chair Sandy Thompson reported that the committee met with a quorum and:

- Approved the minutes of the previous meeting.
- Received a report from the Chapter 102/105 Workgroup.
- Received a report from the E&S Training Workgroup.
- Received a report from NCDEA Representative Sandy Thompson.
- Received a report on a training/mentoring program for new managers.
- Nominated three individuals for the NACDE Conservation Awards.

### **Report from the PACD Education and Outreach Committee**

Committee Member Katherine Shelley reported that the committee met with a quorum and:

- Recommended a new committee chair to the PACD Executive Board.
- Received an update on the Environmental Education Advisory Council.
- Received an update on the NPS Pollution Educational Mini-grant Program & Chesapeake Bay Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience Grant Program.
- Approved a draft Memo of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Education for review by Executive Council.
- Reviewed and accepted recommendations from the marketing subcommittee.
- Received an update on Ag Progress Days.

### **Report from the PACD Legislative Committee**

Committee chair Ron Rohall reported that the committee met with a quorum and:

- Approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

- Received a report on the Conservation District Annual Legislative Report.
- Received a report on the Spring PACD Capitol Day Event.
- Received a state legislative update.
- Approved impact fee policy for consideration by PACD Executive Council.
- Received an update on the state budget.
- Received a federal legislative update.
- Received a report on the potential of a project on the value of conservation districts.

### **Report from the PACD Operations Committee**

Drew Gilchrist reported that the committee met with a quorum and:

- Approved the minutes of the previous meeting.
- Forwarded the PACD Budget for FY 2011/2012 to PACD Executive Council for approval.
- Forwarded two motions from the PACD Conservation Committee, three motions from the PACD Education and Outreach Committee, one motion from the Legislative Committee, three motions from the PACD Ways and Means Committee, and two motions from the PACD Executive Board, to the Executive Council.
- Received a report on the 2011 and 2012 PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conferences.

### **Report from the PACD Ways and Means Committee**

Committee chair Samuel Worley reported that the committee met with a quorum and:

- Received an update on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the PACD Annual Audit.
- Reviewed the FY 2010/11 year end financial reports.
- Received an update on conservation district dues for FY 2011/2012, which will remain the same as the past fiscal year.
- Reviewed the balance of the PACD Capital Fund (\$26,558.62) and the PACD Endowment Fund (\$6,162.42).
- Reviewed the balance of the PACD mortgage and recommended that PACD make an additional mortgage payment in 2011.
- Received a report on the year end building profit & loss, which showed a profit of \$1,921.64.
- Recommended to keep the target balance for the PACD Capital Fund at \$35,000.
- Recommended that PACD put half of any profit from the 2011 PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference toward the PACD Capital Fund and half to the 2012 conference.
- Received a report on moving the Association's accounts from M&T Bank to Metro Bank, which should provide additional interest income to the Association.

### **Conservation District Value Study**

Brenda Shambaugh reported that, during the last PACD Executive Council meeting, there was a motion to look at the possibility of a study on the value of conservation districts. Brenda reported that she contacted the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) and the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), and they do not provide this kind of service. She contacted Penn State and learned that it would be prohibitively expensive for a graduate student to do that kind of work.

PACD has not given up on the idea, but is exploring other avenues. Brenda noted that PACD did ask districts to show how much grant money their districts brings to their county as part of the

Conservation District Annual Legislative Report. This will help to illustrate the value of conservation districts to legislators. There may be other ways to incorporate economic value information into that report.

## **New Business**

### **Motions and resolutions from the PACD Conservation Committee**

1. PACD Representative to PA Envirothon Board

*It was moved by Sandy Thompson (McKean) and seconded by William McFadden (Lehigh) to reappoint Richard Stumpf (Indiana) as PACD representative to the Envirothon Board. Motion carried.*

2. Pilot Stormwater Trading Program Policy

It was explained that the pilot program would take place in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, but might eventually expand statewide.

*It was moved by Mark Davidson (Lycoming) and seconded by Mike Hubler (Dauphin) to approve the following policy statement:*

*PACD endorses a pilot public-private market-based Stormwater Trading Program, addressing pending stormwater (MS4, NPDES) concerns and the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to meet the Total Maximum Daily Load compliance requirements in the form of credit offsets or benefit stacking on a regional scale. PACD also encourages that adequate compensation be provided to conservation districts in order to offset costs associated with serving as an adviser/facilitator for such a program.*

*Motion carried.*

### **Motions and resolutions from the District Employees Committee**

No motions were presented.

### **Motions and resolutions from the Education and Outreach Committee**

1. Memo of Understanding (MOU) with Department of Education

*It was moved by Larry Martick (Adams) and seconded by Jim Shaner (Beaver) to approve the following motion:*

*That PACD accept the Memo of Understanding (MOU) between PACD and the PA Department of Education with one correction.*

*Motion carried.*

2. Review of the Memo of Understanding with the PA Department of Education

*It was moved by Josh Longmore (Luzerne) and seconded by Jacquelyn Rouse (Sullivan) to approve the following motion:*

*That the Education and Outreach Committee will review the Memo of Understanding (MOU) with the PA Department of Education in 2015 before it expires in 2016.*

*Motion carried.*

3. Marketing Subcommittee Recommendations

*It was moved by Larry Martick (Adams) and seconded by Sandy Thompson (McKean) to approve the following motion:*

*That PACD accept the Marketing Subcommittee's recommendations to a) evaluate our marketing efforts by reissuing the Target Audience Marketing Survey (TAMS) in 2013 and b) continue and increase participation at public events such as PA Farm Show, Ag Progress Days and PSATS.*

*Motion carried.*

**Motions and resolutions from the Legislative Committee**

• Natural Gas Extraction Impact Fee Policy

*It was moved by Ron Rohall (Westmoreland) and seconded by Don Koontz (Mercer) to approve the following policy:*

*PACD supports legislation creating a natural gas extraction impact fee with a dedicated portion allocated to the Conservation District Fund to protect and preserve Pennsylvania's natural resources. A portion of the fee should be distributed to conservation districts statewide and the remainder should be committed specifically to conservation districts in impacted areas.*

*Motion carried.*

**Motions and resolutions from the Operations Committee**

1. Conservation District Policy Handbook

*It was moved by Drew Gilchrist (Montgomery) and seconded by Cheryl Brobst (Columbia) to approve the following motion:*

*That PACD work with McNeese, Wallace & Nurick, LLC to update the conservation district policy handbook at a cost of \$2,500.*

*It was moved by Drew Gilchrist (Montgomery) and seconded by Larry Martick (Adams) to*

*amend the motion to read:*

*That PACD work with McNeese, Wallace & Nurick, LLC to update the conservation district employee policy handbook at a cost of \$2,500.*

*Motion carried.*

*The amended motion was put to the vote. Motion carried.*

2. Manure Management Manual and Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Training

*It was moved by Drew Gilchrist (Montgomery) and seconded by Bill Dietrich (Union) to approve the following motion:*

*That PACD take on the Manure Management Manual Training, and the Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Training.*

*Motion carried.*

**Motions and resolutions from the Ways and Means Committee**

1. Additional Mortgage Payment

*It was moved by Bill Dietrich (Union) and seconded by Linda Cioppa (Pike) to approve the following motion:*

*That PACD make an additional mortgage payment in 2011.*

*Motion carried.*

2. Target Balance for the PACD Capital Fund

*It was moved by Sam Worley (Franklin) and seconded by Josh Longmore (Luzerne) to approve the following motion:*

*That PACD keep the target balance for the PACD Capital Fund at \$35,000.*

*Motion carried.*

3. 2011 PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference Profit

*It was moved by Sam Worley (Franklin) and seconded by Ken Meck (Lancaster) to approve the following motion:*

*That PACD put half of any profit from the 2011 PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference toward the PACD Capital Fund and half toward the 2012 PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference.*

*Motion carried.*

## **PACD Budget and Dues FY 2011/2012**

The proposed PACD Dues for FY 2011/2012 were provided to members for their review.

*It was moved by Don Koontz (Mercer) and seconded by Don Baker (Mifflin) to approve the proposed PACD dues for FY 2011/2012. Motion carried.*

*It was moved by Linda Cioppa (Pike) and seconded by Jim Shaner (Beaver) to approve the proposed PACD budget for FY 2011/2012. Motion carried.*

## **Election of Officers**

Nominating Committee Chairman Victor Cappucci presented the following slate of officers:

President: MaryAnn Warren, Susquehanna  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Drew Gilchrist, Montgomery  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Bob Robinson, Wyoming  
Secretary: Jack Tressler, Somerset  
Treasurer: Ken Meck, Lancaster

*It was moved by Don Koontz (Mifflin) and seconded by Larry Martick (Adams) to close nominations. Motion carried.*

*It was moved by Ted Veresink (Northampton) and seconded by Linda Cioppa (Pike) to elect the slate of officers as presented. Motion carried.*

## **NRCS Report – Denise Coleman, State Conservationist**

State Conservationist Denise Coleman provided the following report:

- EQIP and Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative – NRCS has over 29.3 million dollars for those cost share programs. An additional 6.3 million dollars in AMA and CBWI money is now available, as well as WIP money.
- Congress appropriated no funds for the RC&D, so those employees have been reassigned.
- Denise explained that the current technical assistance money that has been appropriated by Congress has to be approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). NRCS can only get the money if and when OMB decides to provide it, which is often three quarters through the fiscal year.
- SWAT money – NRCS requested technical assistance money from the OMB. NRCS has to leverage this money and chose to leverage it with the districts, through DEP. This money will fund positions in the bay watershed to do bay watershed work. This is Farm Bill money and has to go toward actual implementation of specific conservation practices. High priority districts include: Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Chester, Perry, and Bradford. This is a three year agreement with 19 positions. NRCS gives 75 percent and the districts give 25 percent.
- There is another SWAT agreement that is funding the engineering assistance program. \$450,000 over three years. Money has to be CBWI and EQIP implementation.
- There is the opportunity to get slippage money from other states. One opportunity is to get \$750,000 for wildlife habitat incentive program. If any districts can do golden warbler applications, there is money.

### **Report from the PA State Conservation Commission (SCC)**

SCC Executive Secretary Karl Brown provided the following report:

- Karl thanked the PACD board, staff, and delegates for the conference and all of their hard work.
- He noted that PACD and the SCC will be recognizing many worthwhile people at the luncheon today.
- This is a time of transition and change, with the new administration and Marcellus shale issues. Managers and key agency staff have retired and programs are changing, like the manure management program and the Chesapeake Bay program. With change comes opportunity. If you don't have an updated strategic plan, this is the time to think about developing a new plan.
- Karl asked that those in attendance please stay and attend the SCC meeting this afternoon.

### **Report from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**

Steve Taglang, Chief of the Division of Conservation Districts and Nutrient Management provided the following report:

- Steve thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak.
- He noted that DEP received about a 7% reduction in this year's budget. Districts took a \$29,000 hit.
- The Growing Greener grant round was announced on July 2. There are \$7 million worth of watershed grants. The 319 grant announcements also went out.
- Hopefully, there will be an announcement on the funding for Watershed Specialists during the commission meeting this afternoon.
- Funding for Phase II activities for the Bay is coming up.

### **Adjournment**

*It was moved by Bob Robinson (Wyoming) and seconded by Larry Butler (Clinton) to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.*