



PACD's Latest Activities & Opportunities:

PACD Executive Council Approves Top 5 PACD Priorities

Each of the six PACD regions created a list of priorities for PACD to focus on in its day-to-day activities. These six documents were submitted to the PACD Executive Board which combined the six documents into one. On January 19, the PACD Executive Council approved the following five priorities:

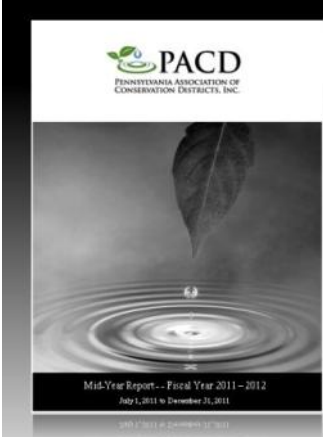
1. Maintain and justify existing funding sources, diversify and increase conservation district funding, and secure dedicated funding for districts.
2. Develop overarching principles and/or ideas against which to weigh proposed actions and decisions so that PACD functions to the benefit of conservation 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.

[Original Six Region Priorities](#)

PACD Boasts Progress, Success in Mid-Year Report

In its annual Mid-Year Report, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts outlines the steps and process it has undertaken to promote and support its 66 county conservation district membership.

From increased public outreach and education to new policy and program initiatives, the Mid-Year Report allows the public and membership to carefully review the benchmarks and successes of the organization during the past six months.



"Keeping our membership and the public informed about our progress, successes and future direction is paramount to keeping the lines of communication open," said Robert B. Maiden, Executive Director for PACD. "Our Association works hard to support and enhance the activities, programs and initiatives of each of the county conservation districts and this report is a snap-shot of those accomplishments. While our work in this arena is never complete, it allows the membership to review the Association's role in supporting their efforts from here in Harrisburg."

In an effort to further support the state's conservation districts, the report outlines a number of areas where the Association has focused its efforts to better position itself to provide new and additional resources to the districts including: Education and Public Outreach; Training;

Government Relations and Policy; Engineering Assistance Program; and Management Services. These areas work in tandem to bring additional exposure to our Association and the districts, allowing public officials, citizens, and community organizations to realize the tremendous resource that the districts are and the important role they play in protecting Pennsylvania's environment.

[Mid-year Report](#)

PACD Participates in PA Envirothon Fundraiser



Staff from PACD and the State Conservation Commission dined at Hoss's in Camp Hill on January 26 for the Pennsylvania Envirothon fundraiser.

Deadline to Register for Intro to Conservation Planning Course Approaching

PACD has partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to deliver a three day Introduction to Conservation Planning course. This free training will take place at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey in Grantville, PA from February 27-29, 2012. The event is for entry-level employees of all organizations in Pennsylvania delivering conservation planning technical assistance, including but not limited to, NRCS, State Conservation Commission, conservation districts, farmland preservation entities, non-profits, and private consultants. Lunch will be provided. **Registration deadline is February 8, 2012.**

[Curriculum & Agenda](#) | **Contact:** [Shannon Wehinger](#)

Nominations Being Accepted for PA Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award

The Clean Water Farm Award Program recognizes Pennsylvania farmers with operations within the Susquehanna and Potomac River Basins, whose exemplary farm management practices result in improved local and downstream water quality. The Clean Water Farm Award Program is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Education Office (administered by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc.). Nominations must be received at the PACD office no later than February 28, 2012.

[Information](#) | **Contact:** [Shannon Wehinger](#)

News that Matters to the Membership:

Canon Envirothon 2012 Seeking Volunteers for 25th Annual Event

Do you enjoy working with youth? Do you care about natural resources and the environment? Do you want to make a difference in education awareness about our environmental footprint? Here's your chance to participate in all of these areas. Volunteer for the Canon Envirothon, North America's largest high school natural resource education program.

From July 22 - 27, 2012, Pennsylvania will host the 25th annual Canon Envirothon at the Susquehanna University. Teams will come to Selinsgrove from nearly every U.S. state and Canadian province/territory, numbering close to 600 students, teachers, and others.

Examples of some of the volunteer responsibilities:

Registration - Check in teams; provide housing information; provide information about the area

Airport Greeters - Welcome teams to Pennsylvania; assist in directing teams to shuttle buses

Candid Photographers - Capture all aspects of the Canon Envirothon

Group buddies/Bus Monitors - Serve as a non-biased chaperone for the teams; travel with the students to stations

There are nearly 50 different volunteer tasks and we will need close to 250 volunteers to fill them all. If you can help for a half day, a full day, or several days, we welcome you!

[More Information](#) | **Contact:** [Karen Books](#)

Three PA Conservation Districts Receive Over \$3 Million in PENNVEST Grants

Governor Corbett announced the investment of \$98 million in 23 non-point source, drinking water, and wastewater projects in 19 counties. Chester, Delaware, and Lancaster conservation districts received nearly \$3.1 million in PENNVEST grants for nonpoint source pollution projects.

[Article](#) | **Contact:** [Terry Fisher](#)

2012 WREN Grants Available

The Water Resources Education Network (WREN), a project of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund, announces the 2012 Community Watershed Education and Source Water Protection Education grant round is now open! Grant applications are due March 23, 2012. Project activities are to take place July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013.

[Guidance and Applications](#) | **Contact:** [Julie Kollar](#), 267-468-0555

Stroud Water Research Center Invites You to Free Session

The Stroud Water Research Center is holding a Stream Ecological Services and Riparian Forest Buffer Session on March 28 from 9:30am-3:00pm. There is no cost to the participant for this session that includes lunch. The deadline to RSVP is March 16. Please email your name, title, phone number, and email address to Richard Shockey to reserve your space.

[Invitation](#) | **Contact:** [Richard Shockey](#)

22nd Annual PALMS Conference to be Held in March

The 22nd Annual Pond & Lake Management Conference is March 7 & 8, 2012 at the Days Inn Penn State in State College, PA. This year's theme is "Staying Blue by Going Green." The keynote speaker is Bill Jones from Indiana School of Public and Environmental Affairs in Bloomington, Indiana. Aquatic applicator credits are offered for Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, and New Jersey.

[Information](#) | **Contact:** [Brian Pilarcik](#)

Conservation Districts in the News:

Chester: [County to Get Water-improvement Funds](#)

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