

PACD Northcentral Regional Directors Meeting
October 21, 2011
Minutes

In Attendance: Mike Lovegreen, Bob Sweitzer, Larry Butler, Mary Ann Bower, Colleen Frank, Craig Bingman, Jacquelyn Rouse, Bill Deitrick, Bill Kahler, Cheryl Johnson, Robert Maiden, Karl Brown.

Robert Maiden called the meeting to order at 9:25am. A **motion** by Lovegreen to approve previous meetings' minutes passed unanimously.

There were no nominations for regional director. Mr. Maiden stated that he would pursue getting the position filled. Lovegreen suggested that maybe there should be a consideration of a change in bylaws to allow district staff to serve as regional representation. Discussion ensued about this idea and the lack of directors' attendance at regional meetings. Things like: younger board members, working directors, and other demographic dynamics are possible causes. There was consensus that this problem needs more research.

District Sharing:

Sullivan (Jackie) – Started farm visits, many flooding issues (EWP sites), & Pennvest application pursuance. Pennvest grant application process hindered by no Act 167 plans. K. Brown stated that there may be exceptions to this requirement. Sullivan will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary in November.

Bradford (Mike) – Flood evaluations, remediation, & assistance. Mike's a bit concerned about dredging mentality that prevails after flooding events, particularly from elected officials. His district conducted Ag damage assessments and priorities to assist farmers with flood damage. Mike shared that Bradford Co. got a mini-grant to go to high schools and have students develop a "youth WIP" from their perspective. Bradford Co. has started farm visits. They got some seed money from "Keep Pa. Beautiful" to develop dump site listing simultaneously when out doing Ag. visits.

Bill K. suggested that PACD promote the idea that districts could issue Chapter 105 Emergency Permits for flood damage on behalf of DEP.

Centre (Bob) – Received a National Fish & Wildlife (NFWF) grant for Ag.-BMP's (\$75,000). They are in the process of applying for a PennVest AG grant (\$700,000). Centre has 1150 farms to visit in 5 years, they've done 40 so far. Bob reminded group of 2012 Cannon International Envirothon to be held at Susquehanna University last week of July 2012. They need volunteers!

Potter (Colleen) – Potter at a full staff of four. Starting Bay visits (they have 350 farms in 3 watersheds), about 100 in Bay watershed. They have 7 D&G roads projects, funded by CEI & Dirt & Gravel roads funds. Doing 7 streambank projects funded by

Sinnemahoning fine funds. Potter district is placing data monitors in streams near Oil & Gas areas to monitor water quality. District is getting some grief from commercial construction/developers over new E&S reg. changes.

Clinton (Mary Ann) – Celebrating 65 anniversary this year. Weather has delayed many construction projects. Their NPDES permits have doubled over last year. Gas business is source of over half of these. Clinton has experienced a significant negative impact on roads from gas business. Gas companies are stepping up financially, however, sometimes the projects are a bit “over the top” with respect to the extent of the new highway scope compared to the previous road footprint/drainage that was there. Working with landowners conducting well water testing prior to gas well drilling near private properties.

Snyder (Craig) – Started farm visits. Flooding not as severe in Snyder Co. as some other counties. Working on decommissioning farm buildings on farm that district owns/manages. Craig expressed landowner disgruntlement w/requirement of having to have an engineered design for a stream crossing that serves two or more residences (this is considered a public crossing). Received a grant to pay for NMP’s for farmers. Snyder district has had successful rain barrel and tumbling composter programs recently. They build and sell them at workshops.

SCC comments – Karl Brown: (see attached yellow sheet as well)

Karl Brown: SCC reinstated Ag. Pres. Admin (partial) for districts to request some reimbursement from the State for administering the program.

SCC created new policy statement that says Districts can use technology (electronics) to achieve a quorum for public meetings.

Karl stated that *Manure Management Manual* will be published in the Pa. Bulletin on Oct. 29th. Electronic copies will be available and initially 10 hard copies will be mailed to districts.

DEP reorganization’s most significant change is that it created an Oil & Gas deputate and that districts will be in the Bureau of Conservation & Restoration.

PDA secretary Grieg working at addressing farm flooding issues.

Mike Lovegreen questioned if it would be the right time to revisit and renew old MOU’s with various State agencies, particularly under this new Administration & reorganization.

NRCS – Cheryl Johnson: (see attached white paper)

- Nothing concrete with NRCS staffing & budget. No CBWI funds yet allocated for 2012.
- Organic transition & greenhouse programs decisions will come out of Wash. DC.
- “Tag” Engineers will be funded again this fiscal year.
- EWP- High priority sites are where residential or commercial building foundations are failing. Must be within 10 ft. of a stream. – Currently 14 sites, unsure if remaining apps. will be funded.

PACD – Robert Maiden (refer to resolution development packet)

Robert presented the necessity of PACD to move forward in unifying, focusing, and defining destiny for PACD. He wants to improve attendance and member engagement in the organization.

Today's discussion will be on the top 5 PACD priorities & the Oil and Gas resolution.

The process for resolution development could be:

1. Individual district board up through the channels,
2. Regional meetings up through the channels,]
3. Executive Board finalizing details back to the org. winter mtg.

Robert presented top 5 priority resolutions and O&G resolutions from other regions to the Northcentral group.

Robert would like to see PACD Exec. Bd. take all 12 resolutions and consolidate them for winter mtg. for voting. Each district bd. will have a chance to comment during the interim. Discussion ensued.

Robert summarized that the NC group will look to have a NC regional director appointed and move resolutions through the Executive committee to then be presented @ the semi-annual conference in January.

Oil & Gas Resolution discussed:

Jackie from Sullivan stated that they want the "Right" to inspect all Oil & Gas activities, but not necessarily the obligation of that task. Mike from Bradford stated that there is more workload than Bradford C.D. can handle in the gas industry. Union was supportive of the these first two statements. Mary Ann reiterated the first two statements in this discussion as well.

Centre Co. is concerned about inspecting O&G activities for sites where they did not have a review role. Bob would like to see an Ombudsman approach to this situation.

Robert Maiden will generate a draft to be submitted to the exec. bd. encompassing the above comments.

Top 5 PACD priorities:

Brainstorming session occurred. Group prioritized top PACD priorities, Robert will consolidate for the exec. bd.

#1 – Lobbying

#2 – Continue to serve as facilitator for mini-grants and other grants for local district support and programs. Consolidate grant acquisition process so as to serve as Statewide administrator to disperse funds back to districts, for example: Penn Vest monies.

- #3 – Re-establish director involvement in the organization
- #4 – Facilitate Director & Staff training
- #5 – Be empowered and unified to be Statewide/National spokesperson/organization for Environmental Concerns on behalf of membership.

Craig Bingman's **motion** to approve these top 5 priorities passed unanimously.

Robert updated the group on Impact Fee Legislation.

Jackie's **motion** to approve O&G resolution passed unanimously.

Date for next meeting: Friday, March 2nd @ Clinton Co.

Motion by Mary Ann to adjourn meeting passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

William H. Deitrick