

PACD Northeast Region Meeting Minutes  
September 30, 2011 8:45 am  
DEP Northeast Regional Office  
Wilkes-Barre, PA

**Attendance:** Tim Ference, Bill Ord, George Gardner, Carl Deluca, Jim Luce, Jim Garner, Karl Brown, Vic Cappucci, Cheryl Johnson, Paul Lohin, Tom Milewski, Craig Todd, Josh Longmore, Robert Robinson, Dan Farnham, Jerry Stiles, Thom Helmacy, Carl Urbanski, Linda Cioppa, Michele Ulmer, MaryAnn Warren, Robert Maiden, Bob Herman, Lillian Theophanis, Elizabeth Hinkel, Ginny Miner, Susan Beecher

**Welcome and Introduction/Approval of Minutes:** Linda Cioppa called the meeting to order at 8:45am with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Linda requested introduction of the voting members for each county present: Carl Urbanski, Luzerne; Linda Cioppa, Pike; Jim Garner, Susquehanna; Craig Todd, Monroe; Bob Robinson, Wyoming; and Paul Lohin, Schuylkill. Paul Lohin moved to accept the minutes of April 5, 2011 with the correction to the spelling of his name; Bob Robinson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Election of Regional Director** – Robert Maiden called for nominations for the PACD NE Regional Director besides Linda Cioppa. Bob Robinson made a motion to close the nomination process and to nominate Linda Cioppa as the PACD NE Regional Director; Mary Ann Warren seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Regional Information Exchange:**

Linda Cioppa opened the floor for discussion on Conservation District issues. Victor Cappucci expressed Wyoming county concerns regarding the recent flooding in the Northeast Region. Craig Todd discussed some building grounds issues that Monroe is working on, the loss of two more EE contracts with the local school districts, laying off a technician in November due to low volume of workload, and working on a revision of the Monroe County Comprehensive Plan. Josh Longmore of Luzerne County discussed a reduction in E&S plan submissions, how the county is transitioning to a county council government and how it is impacting the District, and flood damage impacts in Luzerne. Representatives from Susquehanna County discussed current gas industry activities, flood damage impacts and the issuance of a number of emergency permits to correct the damage, their upcoming annual banquet, and complimented the recently held Dirt and Gravel Road conference. Schuylkill County representatives also discussed flooding impacts and working with municipalities on fixing some of the damage, A&D Treatment systems –some were damaged during the flooding, Ag Compliance issues with landowners, working with a local Agri-business committee with the local Chamber of Commerce and an Adopt an Acre program to get folks more involved with agricultural issues. Lackawanna is working on



new Ag outreach initiatives but otherwise business as usual. Bob Robinson of Wyoming discussed the postponement of Ag Days at Wyoming County Fairgrounds due to flooding and the importance of educating on the watershed approach to flooding issues. Susan Beecher of Pike discussed the impacts of the Pipeline construction, how the District hired an additional technician to support these efforts, and provided an update on the regional Common Waters Fund. There was some discussion regarding the Emergency Watershed Protection program inspections in cooperation with the NRCS, flooding impacts and ways to approach planning efforts and nonstructural options to floodplain protection. The idea of developing a floodplain management policy was discussed for future consideration.

**Resolution Development** – Robert Maiden reviewed and distributed a handout on developing a resolution, benefits of a unified voice, and explained the process for resolution development for PACD. Resolutions will go from regional meetings to be sent to the individual District Boards, shared with the other regions, and then brought to the PACD Annual meeting for vote by the entire membership.

**Discussion and Resolution on the Region's Top Five Priorities** – A copy of the current PACD Strategic Plan was distributed. Districts were broken out and given the opportunity to discuss their top five priorities. Each District presented their five priorities which were then voted on by the delegates from each District. The results of the voting was reviewed during lunch, voted on, and distributed after the meeting (see attached).

**Discussion and Resolution from the Oil and Gas Activities Committee** – A draft resolution from the Oil and Gas Committee that was developed and the comments from the Wayne Conservation District regarding their concerns were both distributed prior to the meeting and discussed. Linda Cioppa explained the development of the Committee and some of the background on the development of the draft resolution. After much discussion and with the input that was discussed, a subcommittee was formed to develop a resolution specific to the concerns of the group. The subcommittee of Craig Todd, Jim Garner, Mary Ann Warren, and Josh Longmore were asked to draft a resolution for consideration by the entire board and were dismissed until after lunch.

**Update on Impact Fee and Eco-Trading Project** – Robert Maiden provided an update on the current Impact Fee legislation and the Governors principles. Robert Maiden also discussed and distributed a flyer on the Chesapeake Bay Eco-Trading Project.

**SCC Report** – Karl Brown distributed and reviewed his report.

**NRCS Report** – Cheryl Johnson distributed and reviewed her report.



**DEP Update** – Pete Tarby discussed Quarterly reporting deadlines, update on current Ag Compliance visits, DEP participation in the flood recovery efforts in the region, and growing greener application deadlines.

**Lunch** –Schulykill County had to be excused during lunch.

**Resolution on the Region's Top Five Priorities** – Bob Robinson moved to pass the resolution to accept the identified NE Region Top Five Priorities; Craig Todd seconded which passed unanimously. These priorities will be sent to the Conservation Committee for consideration by the PACD Membership at the annual meeting in January.

**Resolution from the Oil and Gas Activities Committee** - Immediately after lunch the subcommittee presented a draft resolution (see attached). Mary Ann Warren moved to pass the resolution as stated; the motion was seconded by Bob Robinson which passed unanimously. The resolution should be presented to all the Districts in the NE Region and will be reviewed by the PACD Conservation Committee at the Annual meeting in January.

**Unfinished Business:** The next meeting will be April 6<sup>th</sup> at the DEP Northeast Regional Office in Wilkes-Barre, PA

Mary Ann Warren moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Josh Longmore which passed unanimously.

