

PACD North West Region Meeting  
Lawrence County Government Center  
New Castle, PA  
October 13, 2011

Those in attendance:

John Hallenburg, Erie  
Earl Brown, Erie  
Don Koontz - Mercer  
Jim Mondok – Mercer  
Ron Fodor - Butler  
Sandy Thompson-McKean  
Tom McFarland – Jefferson  
Shaun Wessell - Jefferson  
Russ Braun – Elk  
JoAnn McCready – Lawrence  
Steve Craig - Lawrence

John Green, DEP  
Ron Lybrook -DEP  
Scott Reinhart - NRCS  
Robert Maiden - PACD  
Karl Brown – SCC

**Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes**– Don Koontz, Regional Director, opened the meeting and thanked JoAnn McCready and the Lawrence County Conservation District for hosting the meeting.

**Roll Call & Approval of minutes from March 10, 2011** - A roll call of the delegates was taken with 7 out of the 12 District represented and constituting a quorum. **A motion by Earl Brown from Erie County and seconded by Ron Fodor from Butler County, carried unanimously to approve the minutes.**

**Commissioner Steven Craig welcomed** everyone to Lawrence County with a history of the Lawrence County Government Center. Commissioner discussed the Commissioners role with the Conservation District and the proposed Impact Fee.

**Election of Region Director** – John Green opened the floor for nominations, a motion by Ron Fodor from Butler County and seconded by Earl Brown from Erie County to nominate Don Koontz from Mercer County as the NW Region Director – Nominations were closed with a motion by Sandy Thompson from McKean County and seconded by Earl Brown from Erie County – Don Koontz was elected NW Region Director.

**CD Information Sharing & Exchange** – Don went around the room asking for introductions as well as having each District to share information:

**Butler CD** – Ron Fodor discussed the County working on completing a new plat book. He distributed information on their recently held Butler County Farm Tour, which was attended by



thousands. They will be preserving their 40<sup>th</sup> farm and discussed finishing a round of GG grants for nutrient management.

**Erie CD** – Earl Brown introduced his board Chairman John Hallenburg and discussed the impact he has had with the Erie County Envirothon team. He discussed and distributed outreach and public relation efforts including stack cards being distributed throughout Erie County on the Headwater Park, an interview with a local radio station and publication of a newsletter. Erie County is partnering with Crawford and Mercer Counties to hold the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual NW PA No-Till and Cover Crop Field Day. Earl discussed recent projects they have completed on impaired streams, urban park improvements and educational efforts.

**Mercer CD** – Jim Mondok announced that on this day in 1971, the District hired their first employee. He also discussed projects being implemented at Munnell Run Farm including a recent Farm Day. The District's new Educators have been in place since June and have held numerous educational events. Jim reported on the efforts under the Growing Greener and other grant programs, including constructing rain garden, geo-caching and the regional shared incubator kitchen project. The District will be holding a Watershed Challenge next week that is like a Junior Envirothon and are starting to conduct fund raising events.

**Elk CD** – Russ Braun reported on the District's new Manager, Steve Putt who started in June and is gradually turning things around. The Board has revamped the District's policy manual as well as other policies. He discussed the District's water monitoring program with the attention being spent within the National Forest. A grand opening was held on the Wetlands Learning Center being operated by the District. Plans are underway to celebrate the District's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012.

**Jefferson CD** – Shaun Wessell, reported on the District involvement assisting 24 of the 34 municipalities' implementation of their stormwater ordinance and the interaction with the Oil & Gas Industry. There is not a lot of infrastructure for Oil & Gas so he has been very busy dealing with activities related to the industry. He announced the district receiving a \$750,000 PennVest grant for an AMD project

**McKean CD** – Sandy Thompson discussed the District creating five brochures illustrating specific programs implemented by the District as well as an overview of all the programs. As a member of the 102/105/NPDES/PCSM Advisory Workgroup, she also gave everyone an update on what transpired during the recent conference call.

**Lawrence CD** – JoAnn McCready discussed changes with personnel, Watershed Specialist and Ag Technician. The Watershed Specialist position has been filled and they are working on the process of hiring an Ag. Technician. The District has been utilizing volunteer services, such as Americorp. A proclamation of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was given by their Commissioners. She discussed implementation of various projects and outreach efforts including farmers markets and buying local efforts. The District has been implementing urban stormwater efforts and the



management of West Park. The district assisted Extension with holding their Ag Encounter program with 2,400 students in attendance.

**Resolution Development** – Don Koontz and Robert Maiden discussed consensus building a new initiative being implemented by PACD so we are united in presenting issues to state agencies and legislators. A review was given on resolution development as well as the process.

**Discussion/Resolution on the Region's Top Five Priorities** – Robert facilitated the exercise to develop the NW Region's top five priorities. **A motion by Ron Fodor from Butler County and seconded by Jim Mondok from Mercer County, carried unanimously to approve the following list of NW Region's Priorities:**

1. DEDICATED FUNDING
2. SERVICE TO DISTRICT SHOULD BE PACD'S MAIN PURPOSE
  - a. HELPING WITH GROUP INSURANCE RATES
  - b. HELPING DISTRICT'S PROACTIVELY WITH LOCAL ISSUES
3. CONSISTENCY WITH DELEGATED PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION WITH DEP REORGANIZATION
4. TIMELY TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR CD SUPPORT STAFF
5. KEEP CD MARKETING PROGRAM VIABLE (BROCHURES, CONVENTIONS, ENVIROTHON PROMOTION, EXHIBITS, ETC)

**Discussion/Resolution from the Oil & Gas Activities Committee** – Don Koontz as a member of the Committee discussed the Committee's representation and the development of a Draft Oil and Gas Permit Resolution. The North East Region also developed an Oil and Gas Resolution. A resolution will be developed by all 6 regions. The Regional Director will send all the resolutions to each District Directors within their region. Any amendments or changes to the resolution will then be brought to the Conservation Committee and then one resolution will be derived to be presented at the Executive Council. **A motion by Ron Fodor from Butler County and seconded by Jim Mondok from Mercer County, carried unanimously to approve the resolution as attached.**

**NRCS Update** – Scott Reinhart distributed a report from NRCS and discussed program implementation as well as staffing and budget.

**North West Regional DEP Update** – Ron Lybrook distributed a report from the Region and discussed the reorganization of DEP stating that each Region will be working on the implementation of the proposed changes but this is a fluid process with implementation expected to be completed by January 1<sup>st</sup>.



**SCC Update** – Karl Brown distributed and reviewed the update from the SCC and discussed the SCC allocating additional funds, a proposed Commission Policy statement on use of conference calls, the DEP Manure Manual, Chesapeake Bay visits and the recent flooding.

**PACD Update** – Robert Maiden discussed the importance of initiating lobbying efforts. He also gave an update on the Impact Fee and Eco-trading project.

**Regional Specific Issues** – October 29 at Slippery Rock University beginning at 10:00 AM PASA will be sponsoring a Kitchen Incubator Workshop.

**Next Meeting** – **The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2012 in Erie County at Headwaters Park.**

The meeting was adjourned following a motion by Earl Brown from Erie County and seconded by Sandy Thompson from McKean County.

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