

Pennsylvania Association of Conservations Districts

Southeast Regional Meeting

Franconia Heritage Restaurant and Conference Center

Friday, October 07, 2011

Presiding: Harold Kulp, PACD Regional Director – Chester County Conservation District

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am by Regional Director Harold Kulp, PACD. PACD Regional Director, Harold Kulp, led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Approval of the March 18, 2011 Meeting Minutes with a correction to Northampton C.D. Exchange report. Specifically, the y recently completed their 4<sup>th</sup> Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference. Northampton County made the motion to approve the minutes, and seconded by Montgomery County. The minutes were approved.

II. Conservation District Exchange

Berks C.D. – They plan to complete 100 farm visits. They are willing to meet with any conservation districts that may be going independent from their County to, hopefully, benefit from Berk's experiences.

Bucks C.D. – They have a lot of projects from PennDOT, 102 violations and have meetings scheduled with PennDOT to discuss issues. They celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They are now affiliates with Keep PA Beautiful of which will make them responsible to conduct 3 clean ups, 3 educational events and 3 display events. They attended a congressional meeting on Marcellus Shale. Margaret Quinn provided a lot of good information. They hired a new Agricultural Conservation Technician, Kent Himelright.

Chester C.D. – Pennvest applications are due November 16<sup>th</sup>. They anticipate submitting applications for 10-16 projects (1 in Delaware County). Next Friday they will be holding a Legislative Breakfast at the new county facility in West Chester. They are waiting for the new Ag BMP Manual to come out to start farmer outreach. They hope to have plain sect meetings. Currently, there are 80 plain sect farmers interested in attending. They have agreed to survey for Keep PA Beautiful of which will cover their costs and also be great publicity.

Delaware C.D. – They were able to get the grant for the Conservation Planting Trailer before the federal funding was cut. The trailer will be 3,000 pounds with tools. Informational brochures were distributed for districts to take. They were able to raise \$11,000 in sponsorship



(advertising for RC&D). They are currently dealing with staffing issues, telephone issues and have learned the importance of their Board.

Lehigh C.D. – Now they have gone independent from the County, they are looking to see where they can improve with minimal staff. They have been able to bring some staff back at a part time capacity.

Montgomery C.D. - Gus Meyer is working with Cooperative Extension and DEP for 2 half day workshops in December to educate farmers on the changes in 102 regulations. Next year Montgomery County will have new Commissioners. They have received \$140,000 in Growing Greener funding for a stream bank stabilization project in Abington.

Northampton – They have an Act 48 Workshop “Home and Backyard Conservation” coming up shortly. They also celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary yesterday.

III. Election of Regional Director

A motion was made by Drew Gilchrist (Montgomery) to re-elect Harold Kulp as the PACD Regional Director, seconded by Cheryl Graff Tumola (Delaware). The motion was approved.

IV. Resolution Development – Robert Maiden

Oil and Gas Committee was created to get ahead of the game with issues associated with Oil & Gas. If Districts so choose, they can get involved with inspections. There is confusion around inspections verses permitting. The Committee got together and cleaned up some issues to take destiny and put it into our own hands.

The goal is to create the Top 5 priorities for the State.

This particular procedure helps get us back to basics and move forward. The process has been around; however, it hasn't been utilized in years.

Discussion ensued regarding what should/should not go to PACD as a resolution. There is concern that PACD could get inundated with these resolutions. Robert Maiden is going to look into the bi-laws and see if this can clear things up. Ultimately, PACD would like this information to utilize as “grassroots” to guide Robert.

V. Discussion and Resolution to the Region's Top Five Priorities

The attendees broke into 3 groups. Each group was asked to brainstorm and provide a list of the Top 5 Priorities for the region. Upon completion of the group session, the 15 priorities were read aloud. The repeated priorities were crossed off and a few priorities were consolidated.



Each Conservation District representative was given 5 dots to use as votes. Said votes were tallied. There was a 3-way tie for the fifth priority so another vote was conducted for the 3-way tie.

The Region's Top Five Priorities are as follows:

1. Dedicated and predictable funding (2+ year cycle).
2. Have PACD or lobbyist on floor when budget is discussed because we are a political subdivision of the Commonwealth.
3. Build consensus on regional "lobbying efforts" to prevent conflicting messages to the public – prompt and defined action.
4. Clear and consistent guidance from DEP (Central Office). Regional differences for conservation districts and regulated community.
5. Districts are a priority in DEP Re-organization.

Montgomery County made the motion to approve the priorities, and seconded by Bucks County. The Priorities were approved.

A discussion ensued regarding the best way to proceed from here. To take these items to each Districts perspective board for approval or to wait until there are the top 5 Priorities from all the Districts (Statewide).

VI. Discussion and Resolution from the Oil and Gas Activities Committee

Berks County made the motion to approve the Oil & Gas Resolution with modifications as indicated, and seconded by Lehigh County. The resolution was approved.

VII. SCC Report – Karl Brown

A written report was distributed and Karl highlighted points from his report.

1. Districts were reminded that CDFAP applications are due no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. There is a proposed Commission Policy Statement on Conservation District Use of Conference calls and other technologies for business meetings will, hopefully, be a policy soon. A copy of the proposed Draft was included with the report.
3. DEP's Manure Manual is under final review and it is anticipated to be released before the end of this year.
4. DEP reorganization has been announced by DEP Secretary Michael Krancer.
5. The Chesapeake Bay WIP Workshop Schedule has been released.
6. There is a list of PA counties eligible for 2011 Federal Flood Aid along with eligible and



ineligible debris removal work.

VIII. NRCS Update – Lorin Boggs

1. There will not be a staffing increase in 2012, however, they will be filling vacant positions.
2. Emergency Watershed Program for flood related disasters must be within 50 feet of a stream. They are looking for funding for non-emergency damage.
3. TSP Agreements will have a combined funding pool and one ranking system.
4. EQIP Air Quality Funding is ten million; hopefully, more money is coming to the region.
5. The USDA will not be proposing a 2012 Farm Bill.
6. In 2012 there will be greater eligibility in equine operations in that \$1,000.00 of income from horses (breeding, boarding, racing, riding, training, etc) will make operation eligible.

IX. DEP Update – Linda Mackey

1. DEP is reorganizing and everyone is still in the dark. This will be effective by January.
2. It is anticipated that Oil and Gas will separate under Secretary Krancer.
3. MS4- New PAG-13 permit package published 9/17/11 following agreement with EPA on the program requirements. NOI's and Individual Permit applications due as of 9/12/11. The existing General permit has been extended to June 2012 and will expire March 15, 2013. PSATS is under contract with DCED and DEP to host MS4 outreach workshops in Spring 2012 around the state. Trainings to be held in each region. Additional guidance materials and information on TMDL requirements are being developed.
4. Manure Management Manual is slated to come out later this year.
5. E&S Manual is slated to come out later this year. Training for the E&S Manual is delayed until the manual goes through legal. It was requested by the Districts to be notified if there was a cancelation of the new 102 training at annual training.
6. It was suggested to contact your Senator (Democrat) to fight to keep us in Bill 1100.
7. Nutrient training grant will pay \$200 per visit and complete a form.

X. Unfinished Business/Set Date for Spring Meeting/Adjournment

1. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 16, 2012.
2. Discussion ensued regarding note taking of the meetings. It was agreed that the minutes would be done by the districts (in alphabetical order). At each meeting it will be reiterated which district will be taking minutes at the next meeting.
3. Northampton County Conservation District will take the minutes at the Spring 2012 meeting.

On a motion by the representative of Berks County and seconded by Northampton County representative the meeting was adjourned at 12:12 pm.

