

**PACD Conservation Committee
Ramada Conference Center
January 24, 2017**

Welcome and Roll Call

Chairman Adam Cotchen called the meeting to order at 11:16 AM with a quorum.

Committee members in attendance: Piper Sherburne, Berks; Adam Cotchen, Indiana; Kelly McLaughlin, Allegheny; Dan Dunmire, Mifflin; Larry Martick, Adams; Jack DeHoff, York; Sherry Dumire, McKean.

Guests in attendance: Holly Miller, Sullivan; Mike Hubler, Northumberland; Dave Stoner, Franklin; Carl Rohr, DEP; Elwood Blake, DEP; Nancy DiFiore, NRCS; Lorin Boggs, NRCS; Jay Russell, Mercer; Jim Shaner, Beaver; Daina Beckstrand, Centre; Bill Deitrick, Union; Phil Wilson, PACD; John Akers, Bedford; Molly Burns, PACD; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the July 27, 2016, meeting were provided for review.

It was moved by Larry Martick and seconded by Jack DeHoff to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Proposed Policy on a Water Resource Extraction Fee

Brenda Shambaugh reported that all six PACD regions supported the policy proposed by the PACD Legislative Committee on a water resource extraction fee:

PACD supports the concept of a water resource extraction fee that funds water quality improvements and includes exemptions for public and agricultural users.

This policy will go before PACD Executive Council tomorrow for adoption and inclusion in the PACD Policy Book.

Growing Greener III Discussion

Brenda also reported that Andrew Heath will be presenting on potential Growing Greener III legislation this afternoon. PACD already has policy supporting Growing Greener legislation and Brenda has been working with the coalition to support up-front funding for conservation districts in the proposed legislation. Brenda reported that the budget will likely be a long drawn-out process again this year, and that districts should be prepared for funding delays as a result. Given the apparent budget shortfall, it may be difficult to move funding legislation, such as Growing Greener III, through the legislature.



Conservation District Legislative Week

Brenda discussed a planned Conservation District Legislative Week April 24-30, 2017, the week following Earth Day. The goal of the effort is to educate legislators, particularly new legislators, about the conservation districts and what your district brings to your county.

Districts who are interested in meeting with their legislators in Harrisburg are encouraged to participate in a Capitol Day on April 25 when the legislature is in session. Districts who would like to hold local events or make local visits are encouraged to coordinate those events on April 27 or 28, 2017, when legislators are in their home counties. Brenda encouraged districts to send the link to the conservation district video to their legislators and county commissioners to provide them with an introduction to conservation districts.

Update to the PACD Policy Process

Brenda reported that the proposed policy procedure changes were supported by the PACD regions during the last round of region meetings and will be voted on the Executive Council on July 25, 2017.

New Issues Discussion

Brenda encouraged the committee to discuss and develop policy to be considered by the membership at the 2017 spring PACD Region Meetings and come before PACD Executive Council at the 2017 PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference in July.

The group discussed the upcoming listening sessions that DEP is coordinating to obtain input from conservation districts on Chapter 102. Brenda noted that PACD would be happy to represent the positions of conservation districts during this process, if there is relative consensus among the membership.

Adjournment

It was moved by Kelly McLaughlin and seconded by Larry Martick to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 PM. Motion carried.

