

**PACD Conservation Committee
Ramada Conference Center, State College, PA
July 27, 2016**

Welcome and Roll Call

Adam Cotchen, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:20 AM and reported that a quorum was present.

Committee members in attendance: Adam Cotchen, Indiana; Dan Dunmire, Mifflin; Carl Goshorn, Cumberland; Larry Martick, Adams; Kelly McLaughlin, Allegheny; Rob Shannon, Centre; Piper Sherburne, Berks; Craig Todd, Monroe.

Guests in attendance: Ed Magargee, Delaware; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Molly Burns, PACD; Pat Sueck, York; Don Baker, Mifflin; Jim Luce, Wyoming; Elwood Blake, DEP; Kelly Stagen, Pike; Heidi Secord, Monroe; Jason Childs, Potter; Chris Snyder, Juniata; Mark Kimmel, York; Joe Dietrick, Westmoreland; Celina Seftas, Huntingdon; Steve Putt, Elk; Tricia McIntire, Clarion; Bill Deitrick, Union; Meade Meyers, Somerset; Mari Meyers, Somerset; Jenna Fehr, Schuylkill; Dave Mankamyer, Somerset; Jay Russell, Mercer; David Stoner, Franklin.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on February 9, 2016, were provided for review.

It was moved by Kelly McLaughlin and seconded by Piper Sherburne to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on February 9, 2016 as presented. Motion carried.

Resolution Discussion

Brenda Shambaugh reported that the resolution to support the use of properly permitted and treated AMD water for fracking was vetted at all PACD region meetings and will be voted on the Executive Council tomorrow (July 28, 2016).

It was moved by Piper Sherburne and seconded by Carl Goshorn to support the following policy:

That PACD support the use of properly permitted and treated AMD water for fracking.

Motion carried.

New Issues Discussion

The committee discussed issues and policy to be considered by the membership at the 2016 fall PACD Region Meetings and come before PACD Executive Council at the 2017 PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference in January.



House Bill 2114

The committee discussed HB 2114, which enacts a water resource fee on daily water withdrawals in PA. The fee would be used to fund water-related programs and general governmental operations in DEP, DCNR and the Fish and Boat Commission. The remaining dollars would be used to fund water-related projects within all PA watersheds. Agricultural operations, public, and municipal uses would be exempt. Conservation districts may be able to benefit from the proceeds through the portion that goes to DEP. Brenda noted that none of the legislation we are looking at today is likely to move prior to the next session.

It was moved by Rob Shannon and seconded by Larry Martick to support the concept of a water resource extraction fee that funds water quality improvements and includes exemptions for public and agricultural uses. Motion carried.

House Resolution 908

The group discussed HR 908, which calls for a study of new water use fees to fund water quality improvement programs. The committee did not take a position on the resolution.

Policy Procedure

Brenda Shambaugh presented a copy of an updated policy process designed to make the process more efficient, and reported that the proposed updates will go to the fall 2016 PACD Region Meetings for review.

She noted that, currently, if a proposal arises during or after the region meetings or is amended on the floor of PACD Executive Council, it could theoretically have to go back to the beginning and run through the process all over again.

To address this issue, the updated policy procedure asks for proposals to be provided to PACD by March 1 for the spring region meetings and September 1 for the fall region meetings. In addition, the PACD Executive Board will be able to forward proposals to the membership for local review, if they arise during or after the region meetings.

She asked the committee for comments, thoughts, and suggestions, and the ensuing discussion was positive in favor of the changes.

Adjournment

It was moved by Larry Martick and seconded by Piper Sherburne to adjourn the meeting at Noon. Motion carried.