

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

Welcome and Roll Call

Jo Ann McCready, Chairwoman, welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:05 AM and noted that a quorum was present.

Committee members in attendance: Jo Ann McCready, Lawrence; Donna Fisher, Blair; Josh Longmore, Luzerne; Gus Meyer, Montgomery; Jim Shaner, Beaver; Chris Strohmaier, Chester; Maryruth Wagner, Columbia; Pat Sueck, York.

Guests in attendance: Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Molly Burns, PACD; John Akers, Bedford; Kelly Stagen, Pike; Hank Webster, Clearfield; Chuck Duritsa, Westmoreland; Larry Butler, Butler; Jim Weaver, Tioga; Heidi Secord, Monroe; Jason Childs, Potter; Paul Semmel, Lehigh; Jack Tressler, Somerset; Craig Todd, Monroe; Dave Mankamyer, Somerset; Meade Meyers, Somerset; Mari Meyers, Somerset; Ben Vaupel, Schuylkill.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

It was moved by Maryruth Wagner and seconded by Donna Fisher 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 Donna Fisher and seconded by Pat Sueck 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.

- It was noted that we should keep our ear out for anything related to Impact Fee funds.
- It was suggested that PACD hold a conference call if feedback related to future legislation becomes necessary.



- Growing Greener III is another important issue. Brenda indicated that this will likely come around again next legislative session in January. PACD has signed on to the Growing Greener Coalition, so we are part of the process.

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. As agricultural operations, public, and municipal uses would be exempt, it seems to apply mainly to industrial use. 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. Growing Greener continues to dwindle, so Growing Greener III is key.

It was moved by Chris Strohmaier and seconded by Pat Sueck to support the concept of a water resource extraction fee that funds water quality improvements with exemptions for public and agricultural uses. Motion carried.

House Resolution 908

The committee discussed HR 908, which calls for a study of new water use fees to fund water quality improvement programs. The committee agreed that well-drafted legislation can be created without need for a study.

State Budget Discussion

Brenda Shambaugh reported that Pennsylvania has a budget and a fiscal code, and the conservation district line items held steady.

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 Jim Shaner and seconded by Chris Strohmaier to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 AM. Motion carried.