

**PACD North East Region Meeting
DEP Northeast Regional Office, Wilkes-Barre, PA
April 21, 2017**

Welcome and Introductions

PACD North East Regional Director Kelly Stagen called the meeting to order at 9:20 am. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested a roll call of voting members for each district present: Audrey Wargo, Carbon; Jerry Stiles, Lackawanna; Tim FERENCE, Luzerne; Adam Schellhammer, Monroe; Kelly Stagen, Pike; Jenna Fehr, Schuylkill; Mary Ann Warren, Susquehanna; Jamie Knecht, Wayne; Bob Robinson, Wyoming.

In attendance: Audrey Wargo, Carbon; Shane Kleiner, DEP; Karen Books, DEP; Jerry Stiles, Lackawanna; Tim FERENCE, Luzerne; John Hanish, Luzerne; Adam Schellhammer, Monroe; Jen Matthews, NRCS; Susan Marquart, NRCS; Nathan Brophy, PACD; Andy Wodehouse, PACD; Molly Burns, PACD; Michele Long, Pike; Kelly Stagen, Pike; Sally Corrigan, Pike; Ben Vaupel, Schuylkill; Glenn Luckenbill, Schuylkill; Jenna Fehr, Schuylkill; Jamie Knecht, Wayne; Jim Garner, Susquehanna; Mary Ann Warren, Susquehanna; Bob Robinson, Wyoming; Dorne White, Wyoming; Jim Luce, Wyoming; Karl Brown, SCC.

Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for Friday, October, 20, 2017 at the DEP Northeast Regional Office.

Approval of Minutes for the Previous Meeting

It was moved by Bob Robinson and seconded by Mary Ann Warren to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

PACD Update

Molly Burns reported that PACD will work to coordinate another regional meeting with DEP Deputy Secretary Dana Aunkst. She noted that Conservation District Week is coming up and asked districts to include any legislative activities in their report. She also noted that Terry Fisher with PACD is working to coordinate CPESC training for 2017.

PACD Engineering staff provided a handout with information about what assistance they can and can't provide with regard to Growing Greener Grants, and reported that they are available to provide technical assistance such as an inventory and evaluation, survey, design, and pre-construction of projects, but not grant writing and permitting.

Mary Ann Warren reported that she is PACD Nominating Committee Chairwoman, and the committee is requesting nominations for PACD President, 1st Vice President, and 2nd Vice President by the end of May.



Proposed PACD Bylaws Amendment Regarding Region Director Eligibility (Amended)

Molly Burns and Kelly Stagen presented information on the proposal, which would allow associate directors in good standing to serve as region director. The amendment clarifies that any associate director elected to serve as region director must be officially appointed by their conservation district board on an annual basis as long as he or she serves as region director.

Jamie Knecht made a motion to support the amendment as presented. Audrey Wargo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. Luzerne, Pike, Carbon, Lackawanna, Wayne and Schuylkill voted yes. Monroe, Susquehanna and Wyoming voted no. Motion carried.

PACD Bylaws Conflict Regarding Voting Rights of Board Members

Molly Burns explained the apparent conflict in the PACD Bylaws. What the membership is deciding is whether or not, in the case that there is more than one board member from the same conservation district, each board member has voting rights or only one.

Adam Schellhammer made a motion to strike the language in the PACD Bylaws, Article VI, Section 1, stating PACD Executive Board members each have one vote at all PACD Executive Board meetings and leave Article V, Section 1, so that only one board member per district may vote. Tim Ference seconded. Motion carried.

Regional Information Sharing

Each Conservation District shared current activities of concern with the Region.

Schuylkill – Jenna Fehr reported they just finished a youth summit where they surveyed high school students on environmental issues in the county to try and engage youth in conservation related issues. They also worked with partners on activities and demonstrations at Bear Creek. In celebration of conservation district week they wrote letters to legislators and did a proclamation with County Commissioners.

Wayne – Jamie Knecht reported Bob Muller’s retirement party will be April 28 at the district office. Wayne is in the midst of their annual seedling sale and gearing up for the Pike/Wayne Envirothon on April 27. April 7 Wayne hosted the Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership legislative breakfast at their office. Pike County Conservation District participated as well.

Wyoming – Bob Robinson reported Wyoming will be having their annual seedling sale this weekend and distributing blue spruce seedlings to K-4 students. Their contractors workshop is rescheduled for May 24 at Keystone College. Their Envirothon will be held on May 17 at Keystone College. They are looking to purchase land in the county to hold their Conservation District Field Days.

Susquehanna – Jim Garner reported they are looking at bids for their new building, hosting a legislative breakfast on May 11, and May 12 will be the district’s 70th Anniversary. There continue to be ongoing issues related to pipeline activities. Susquehanna is also working on a Nutrient Management Tour as well as having completed their Chesapeake Bay visits.

Lackawanna – Jerry Stiles reported their Envirothon will be held May 17 and they are working with Wyoming on the contractors workshop rescheduled for May. Their seedling sale is underway and they are completing farm inspections with no problems but some updates.

Carbon – Audrey Wargo reported Carbon celebrated their 70th anniversary in February. There are a number of large projects ongoing in the county, including a golf course and wind turbine installations. They will be having a soil health meeting with NRCS and DEP next week. Their week long Envirothon testing begins soon, and will reach different age groups throughout the week from grades four through high school.

Pike – Sally Corrigan reported the Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership Legislative Breakfast was well attended with good discussions with legislators present. The district just completed their annual Adopt-A-Highway cleanup. Pike is also working on completing a groundwater study with the USGS and continues to monitor wells throughout the county on a monthly basis. There are a number of large projects coming up, including a transmission line and a number of PennDOT projects throughout the county. The district is also looking for a new Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Monroe – Adam Schellhammer reported they are working on a large Earth Day event at East Stroudsburg University with a number of partners. Their Envirothon is next week and their annual Friends of the Conservation District dinner with auction is coming up. The district will be taking on the Act 38 delegation agreement. Monroe also worked with Pike to host two engineers workshops in January and is planning a Dirt and Gravel Roads program this spring.

Luzerne – Tim Ference reported they completed an engineers and contractors workshop and have held two sessions with the agricultural community. Their Envirothon is being held today. Jack Hanish reported they are working on educational efforts regarding Dirt and Gravel Roads and MS4 requirements.

Partner Reports

SCC – Karl Brown distributed a written report. He discussed the current budget proposals, the Nutrient Management delegation updates, the Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road admin manual updates, the Penn State BMP survey, and reminded districts to review the PA Ethics Law.

DEP –Karen Books provided a brief review of a written report, including some restructuring of staff, the proposed budget, the watershed specialist grant application updates, drought declaration updates, and upcoming trainings for directors and staff. There was also some discussion regarding the DEP Chapter 102 updates summary that DEP distributed in an effort to increase communications between districts and DEP.

NRCS – Susan Marquart provided a brief review of her written report.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.