

**PACD Executive Council Meeting
Ramada Conference Center, State College, PA
February 10, 2016**

Call to Order

PACD President Glenn Seidel called the meeting to order at 12:46 PM.

Roll Call

PACD Secretary Kenneth Meck called the roll. A quorum was present, with 47 districts represented.

Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

Ken Meck presented the minutes of the previous meeting on July 9, 2015.

It was moved by Bill McFadden (Lehigh) and seconded by Jack Tressler (Somerset) to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

President's Report

Glenn Seidel provided a brief report. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and participating in the association. He noted that all 66 conservation districts are in good standing for this fiscal year, making PACD 66 strong.

Executive Director's Report

PACD Executive Director Brenda Shambaugh provided a brief report noting the many successes for conservation districts over the last six months. She said that it is an honor and a privilege to serve the districts as executive director for the association and asked that members continue to contact her with their concerns, questions, and comments. She stressed that PACD will continue to be a strong advocate for conservation districts, and plans to keep the lines of communications open with the membership.

NACD Report

Brenda Shambaugh thanked the association for allowing her to attend the NACD Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada. She reported that the meeting was an excellent experience and gave her the opportunity to exchange ideas with executive directors from across the state.

Treasurer's Report

PACD Treasurer Dave Crawl presented his report, which included the mid-year financial reports and the PACD audit for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. He reported that revenues and expenses are currently balancing well.

It was moved by Jack Tressler (Somerset) and seconded by Harold Webster (Clearfield) to accept the PACD Treasurer's Report, including the PACD Audit for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Motion carried.



Report from the PACD Managers Meeting

Christopher Thompson, Lancaster County Conservation District Manager, provided the following report on behalf of the conservation district managers:

- Secretary Redding spoke to the conservation district managers during their meeting. The managers continue to advocate for improved and continuing communication and involvement in issues and policies that involve the conservation districts.
- Eight conservation districts were offered the opportunity to submit applications for matching funds from a pool of \$500,000 in undistributed funds from the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP). Of these eight, five rejected the opportunity, largely on the basis that the funds should be distributed equitably to conservation districts statewide.
- The group discussed the changes to Chapter 102.
- Twenty-two districts are planning to accept delegation for Chapter 105. The districts who are participating in the program have indicated that it is a benefit to conservation in their county.
- The managers also discussed verification of unreported best management practices, the potential for a Practice Keeper launch, and the DEP reorganization.

Report from the PACD Conservation Committee

Committee Chairman Adam Cotchen provided the following report:

- The committee met on February 9 with a quorum
- Brenda Shambaugh provided an update on PACD's request for a conservation district seat on the invasive species council. PACD sent a follow up letter to the Governor's office in December, but have not received a response at this time. It is likely that the Governor's office has not had the opportunity to address this appointment, among others.
- The committee voted to support two policies that will come up later in the agenda:
 - The first is to support the use of properly permitted and treated AMD water for fracking.
 - The second is to support legislation allowing for a tax credit for the development of coal refuse to electricity initiatives.
- Brenda Shambaugh reported that she plans to present a more efficient PACD policy procedure, based on the current model, for district review at the spring region meetings.
- Brenda also reported that the PACD Executive Board has taken the position that conservation districts need a seat at the table during the development of major policy changes, such as the Chesapeake Bay Reboot.
- The committee also discussed the fact that conservation districts need to be part of the development process for delegation agreements.

Report from the PACD District Employees Committee

Committee Chairwoman Sandy Thompson provided the following report:

- The committee met on February 9 with a quorum present.
- Terry Fisher reported on the training opportunities coordinated by PACD for conservation district staff. Discussion focused on the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sedimentation Control (CPESC) training. There is an expectation that more district staff will be pursuing this certification in the future. The committee will revisit this topic at a future meeting.
- Mike Lovegreen reported on the activities of the Leadership Development Committee:
 - Grants were approved to develop six strategic plans, and three grants are still available.
 - He is seeking presenters for sessions on prioritizing work and using technology in the field during the Staff Conference March 2-3.

- The Leadership Development Coordinator position will not be filled this year.
- The committee reviewed the agenda for the Management Summit to take place June 7-8, 2016. Most of the discussion was related to technology used in the field.
- The committee decided to conduct a salary and benefits survey for district staff positions. When complete, the survey results will be made available to managers and directors.

Report from the PACD Education and Outreach Committee

Committee Chairwoman Laura Anderson provided the following report:

- The committee met on February 9 with a quorum.
- The committee received a report on event participation.
 - During Ag Progress Days 2015, volunteers spoke with 154 people.
 - During the 2016 Farm Show, volunteers had direct contact with 650 members of the public. PACD's Sandy Austin and Terry Fisher developed informational cards for five PA watersheds, which were available at the PACD booth. The committee thanked Sandy and Terry for their work in developing the cards, which were very nicely done and are available for districts to use.
- Volunteers are needed for the conservation district booth at PSATS, April 17-20 in Hershey.
- Michele Ulmer reported on the upcoming staff conference and provided details about the environmental education portion.
- The committee would like to investigate having a representative on the PA Association of Environmental Educators.
- The committee reviewed a train-the-trainer opportunity that would prepare district staff to train teachers on Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences. It was determined that the cost would be too high for district staff to attend but other avenues are being explored.
- A discussion was held about districts having trouble renewing their Act 48 credit provider status. PACD will send a poll to determine our next course of action.
- PACD is receiving requests to host a photo database for all districts to use. Costs will be determined before this is acted upon.
- The committee recommends that PACD budget an additional \$2,000 for marketing efforts, to include a template district brochure, in the next year.

PACD Legislative Committee

Committee Member Josh Longmore provided the following report:

- The committee met on February 9 with a quorum.
- The committee voted to support two policies that will come up later in the agenda:
 - The first is to support the use of properly permitted and treated AMD water for fracking.
 - The second is to support legislation allowing for a tax credit for the development of coal refuse to electricity initiatives.
- The committee also voted to reiterate that PACD supports continued funding for conservation districts, either through the current Impact Fee or as part of any proposed oil and gas extraction fee (e.g. a severance tax).
- The group discussed the amendment to the Clean Streams Law, which changed buffer requirements under Chapter 102 and has had some unintended consequences.
- The committee discussed the Chesapeake Bay Reboot and the proposal to reallocate a portion of the funds from the CDFAP to implement BMPs. The PACD Executive Board has taken

the position that conservation districts need a seat at the table during the development of major policy changes, such as the Chesapeake Bay Reboot.

- Brenda Shambaugh reported that she plans to present a more efficient PACD policy procedure, based on the current model, for district review at the spring region meetings.

PACD Operations Committee

Committee Chairman Don Koontz reported that the committee met on February 9 with a quorum, and presented two items to come before PACD Executive Council.

1. Dues increase for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

A ten percent dues increase was approved by all six regions during the Fall Region Meetings.

It was moved by Don Koontz (Mercer) and seconded by Blaine Smith (Blair) that PACD adopt a one-time dues increase of 10% for FY 2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Coal Refuse-to-Electricity Initiatives

This policy was proposed by the PACD North East Region and approved by the other five regions. The PACD legislative and conservation committees also voted to support the policy.

It was moved by Don Koontz (Mercer) and seconded by Harold Webster (Clearfield) to approve the following policy:

PACD supports legislation allowing for a tax credit for the development of coal-refuse-to-electricity initiatives, and that these same companies need to practice environmental responsibility for any waste products from this activity.

Motion carried unanimously.

PACD Ways & Means Committee

Committee Chairman Ken Meck provided the following report:

- The committee met on February 9 with a quorum.
- The committee reviewed a draft budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017, which will continue through the budget process and come to Executive Council in July.
- At the request of the PACD South West Region, the committee reviewed a proposed three year budget plan, which will be presented during the Spring PACD Region Meetings.
- The committee is recommending that all future budgets, beginning with Fiscal Year 2016-2017, reflect the possibility that PACD may not receive the total amount of conservation district dues owed by showing an expense equal to 5% of the total dues.
- The committee reviewed two proposals for a new dues structure, one from the PACD South East Region and one from the PACD South West Region. The committee is proposing two options to come before the membership during the Spring PACD Region Meetings:
 - Option one will maintain the current dues structure.
 - Option two will adopt a flat dues structure, where the total dues amount is divided equally among the 66 conservation districts.
- The committee reviewed the mid-year financial reports for Fiscal Year 2015-2016, which cover the period from July 2015 to December 2015.

Report from the PA State Conservation Commission

SCC Executive Secretary Karl Brown provided a verbal report. He thanked PACD for their efforts in putting together the meeting, urged conservation districts to be active in the discussions about a proposal for Growing Greener III, and stressed that the conservation partnership is important, as is communication between partners.

Report from the PA Department of Environmental Protection

DEP Conservation District Support Section Chief Fred Fiscus provided the following report:

- DEP has received 24 letters of intent for Chapter 102. The deadline to submit a letter of intent is February 26.
- They have received 11 letters of intent and two signed agreements for Chapter 105.
- The website for the Greenport is completed and it is anticipated that the Greenport itself will be completed within 6-9 months.
- All of the conservation district audits were received on time this year, and Fred thanked the districts for their cooperation in this effort. He reminded those districts who submitted county audits that they will be required to submit a more detailed audit next year.
- Fred reviewed some of the changes that took place as part of the reorganization of DEP.

Report from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

State Conservationist Denise Coleman provided a verbal report for those present, in addition to providing copies of an updated strategic plan and additional handouts.

Adjournment

It was moved by Jack Tressler (Somerset) and seconded by MaryAnn Warren (Susquehanna) to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:47 PM.