

**PACD South Central Region Meeting  
Cumberland County Conservation District, Carlisle, PA  
March 22, 2017**

**Welcome and Introductions**

PACD SC Region Director John Akers called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM with a quorum.

*In attendance:* Seleen Shives, Fulton; Chris Snyder, Juniata; Eric Naguski, Dauphin; Larry Martick, Adams; Mark Kimmel, York; Bruce Holbrook, York; Celina Seftas, Huntingdon; Lynette Gelsinger, Lebanon; Randy Leisure, Lebanon; Jeff Sholly, PACD Engineering Assistance Program; Susan Marquart, NRCS; Lorin Boggs, NRCS; Susan Kubo, NRCS; Donna Fisher, Blair; Dave Stoner, Franklin; Sam Worley, Franklin; Dan Dunmire, Mifflin; Murray Laite, Mifflin; Karl Brown, State Conservation Commission; Wilbur Wolf, Cumberland; Carl Goshorn, Cumberland; Fred Fiscus, DEP; Sally Tengeres, Perry; Ken Meck, Lancaster; Chris Thompson, Lancaster.

**Set Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at the Cumberland County Conservation District office at 10:00 AM.

PACD Executive Director Brenda Shambaugh reported that PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Deputy Secretary Dana Aunkst wishes to meet with districts on a regional basis again. The group considered dates and selected Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at the Cumberland County Conservation District office at 10:00 AM.

**Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were provided for review.

*It was moved by Wilbur Wolf and seconded by Eric Naguski to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.*

**PACD Business and Report**

Brenda reported that the PACD Executive Board will have elections coming up in July for officers. There will be two vacancies: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Members are encouraged to talk to their directors about serving as an officer.

**Proposed PACD Bylaws Amendment - Voting Rights of Executive Board Members**

Brenda provided those in attendance with a proposed amendment to the PACD Bylaws to clarify voting rights for PACD Executive Board members, in the case that there is more than one board member from the same conservation district on the PACD Executive Board.



According to the *PACD Bylaws, Article V, Section 1*, in the event that there are two or more PACD Executive Board members from the same conservation district, only one of those individuals may vote.

According to the *PACD Bylaws, Article VI, Section 1*, PACD Executive Board members each have one vote at all PACD Executive Board meetings.

These two items are in apparent conflict with one another.

Brenda reported that the PACD Executive Board voted that all Executive Board Members should have a vote. Discussion was held with the following action being taken:

*Motion by Murray Laite that each district gets one vote at the Executive Board Meetings. Seconded by Sam Worley. Motion carries.*

### **Proposed PACD Bylaws Amendment - Region Director Eligibility**

The membership reviewed a proposed PACD Bylaws amendment, which would allow an Associate Director to serve as PACD Region Director, during the Fall 2016 Region Meetings. The PACD South West Region proposed an amendment to the proposal, which was not reviewed by the other five regions. Brenda presented the amendment proposed by the PACD South West Region.

Brenda reported that the PACD Executive Board has serious reservations about allowing Associate Directors to serve as Region Directors. Discussion was held with the following action being taken:

*Motion by Wilbur Wolf to revise the PACD South West Region amendment to state after “on annual basis” insert **during their term as regional director**. Seconded by Ken Meck. Motion carried.*

*Motion by Larry Martick and seconded by Randy Leisure to accept the PACD South West amendment as revised. Motion carried.*

### **2017 Conservation District Legislative Week**

Brenda reported that 2017/2018 will be an extremely difficult budget year, so she is anticipating that Districts will be late in receiving funds through our budgeted line items. Brenda encouraged Districts to have a contingency plan in place for a late budget. Line items in both PDA and DEP were held steady at the 2016/2017 levels. April 23rd-30th will be “Conservation District Week” and PACD has requested that each District plan a legislative event for that week. It is vital that Districts stay at the forefront of the legislators minds. There are a number of new legislators that may not be familiar with Districts and what we do.

### **PACD Engineering Assistance Program**

PACD Engineering Assistance Program Engineer Jeff Sholly, P.E., provided a brief report and encouraged Districts to schedule projects as soon as possible for PACD engineering assistance.

They can provide assistance on a variety of projects. Examples include ag waste storages, stormwater BMPs, animal mortality buildings, contour strip layout, waterways and diversions.

### **PACD Legal Program**

PACD's on-call attorney program is up and running and if you have legal questions, Brenda encouraged the membership to contact them for assistance.

### **Regional Information Sharing**

*Cumberland* – Carl provided an update on Chesapeake Bay Program ag inspections. 40 have been completed and they are finding that 75% of the farmers are out of compliance because they need either a Manure Management Plan or an Ag E&S plan, mostly Manure Management Plans. Have held two Manure Management Plan writing workshops resulting in 15 farmers writing the own plans with assistance from the District. Cumberland has set aside some Unconventional Gas Well funds to provide 50% cost-share for plan writing assistance for farmers to have a private sector consultant write their plan. Carl also reported that historically, Chapter 102 Individual NPDES permits have taken a very long time to get approved. However, in the last couple weeks, DEP has been communicating more than ever and has been expediting reviews for individual permits. A positive effort to report regarding DEP permit approvals. Duplication of reviews is still occurring with regards to PCSM, but perhaps not to the same level as before. Carl reported that he met with all of his legislators in the fall at their local offices and will follow-up with a letter asking for their support in terms of the state budget.

*Mifflin* – Dan reported that they have conducted two MMP workshops in response to the ag inspections. Mifflin was recently awarded one of the DCNR Buffer grants, but have not received a contract yet. One partner has a really nice public park that is heavily used by the public that can be helped through this grant effort. District is in the process of updating their watershed implementation plan that was developed in 2005 for the Upper Kish watershed. Received a NFWF grant to update this plan. Dan is considering individual meetings with his legislators at their home offices.

*Franklin* - Dave reported that a new E&S technician was hired. The District has conducted 4 MMP workshops with 47 plans being developed for farmers. There is a 20,000 acre backlog on Ag E&S plans. About 8-9 projects have been completed for Dirt & Gravel Road Program. Franklin also reports a lot of plans get approved at the DEP regional office. Dave has a legislative breakfast scheduled for April 28th.

*Blair* – Donna reported that the District has also seen a lot a permits approved by the DEP regional office, including a permit for their new office facility. Hoping to go out to bid on a portion of the project soon. The District has an AmeriCorps position that is helping to write plans for farmers as part of the Bay ag inspections. Hoping to have 60 plans completed. An intergovernmental stormwater committee (10 municipalities and the county government) has been formed related to MS4s and a position is being developed to coordinate the MS4 program. Blair has an Earth Day event scheduled at the mall and Donna will invite her legislators to attend and will give them an opportunity to participate in giving awards out at the local Envirothon event.

*Lancaster* - Chris reported that the District received a NFWF grant for \$900,000 to implement 100% streambank fencing on 38 farms in the Fishing Creek watershed. Chris reported that just the talk of cuts to EPA funding has caused some farmers to back out of projects. Lancaster has completed 115 of 300 visits. Lancaster has selected farms they do not have a relationship with. Have found 50% to be in compliance. Have had 5 farmers that were sent up to DEP for follow-up action. District has hired two new staff on their ag team. For Conservation District Week, Lancaster is trying to coordinate a tour of farms for legislators.

*Lebanon* - Provided potted seedlings to each 4th grader at a local elementary school. Hope to expand this program to other elementary schools in the county. Lebanon County is celebrating 25 years of ag land preservation. Low volume road and dirt and gravel road projects are being worked on. Manure Management Plans workshops offered manure hauler and broker credits, which improved attendance. Will have annual open house in May and will invite legislators.

*Perry* – Sally reported that the Center for Dairy Excellence offered an Ag E&S workshop at a local school district. FFA students were trained to assist with the workshop. Those FFA students wrote plans for their own farms and some have helped neighboring farms write plans. May expand this model to other FFA chapters in the county. Reported that they are having more E&S plans come in. Sally will meet one-on-one with legislators.

*Huntingdon* - Celina reported that the District is working on three major stream restoration projects on Warriors Mark Run. New ag technician has been conducting inspections and providing plan writing assistance. The Borough of Huntingdon is celebrating its 250th anniversary and the District is helping to plant 250 trees as part of this celebration. Celina has already met with some legislators and will follow-up with letters.

*York* - Mark reported lots of DGR/LVR project activity. Still waiting on a Chapter 105 permit approval from DEP for a site they would like to use as a demonstration project. Have 4 ag staff and 3 E&S staff that are being trained. Interest in the Envirothon continues to be strong in York County. Will use Envirothon efforts as an opportunity to reach out to local legislators. Conservation Plan backlog continues to grow and EPA has not started compliance visits yet. The District has 150 plan writing requests for nearly 40,000 acres. Considering charging fees to write plans for farmers. District put in a couple grants for CBP-SP for plan writing assistance.

*Adams* – Larry reported that the District received a DCNR Riparian Buffer Grant. Annual Soil Quality meeting was once again well received. Compliance inspections are underway. Approximately 30 have been completed. About one-third need something additional. For Conservation District Week, may do something specifically in the office related to Chapter 105 issues and the relationship between the permitting program and the work that the District is trying to do. Trying to get them to understand the challenges that the District is facing regarding the program.

*Dauphin* - Eric reported that DGR QAQC review went well. Had their first LVR project in a very urban area. Eric expressed how helpful Center and Commission staff have been in assisting with these projects. Finished up three stream bank projects through County Environmental Initiative funds. Have a CBP-SP grant for developing plans for farmers - got 22 conservation

plans written/updated using this grant. Have had three MMP workshops that have had good turnout. Legislative breakfast scheduled. Purchased an ad at two different theaters in the Harrisburg area. Total cost was \$4,200 to run the ad twice before each movie for 26 weeks.

*Juniata* – Chris reported that the Lost Creek Stream restoration project is ready to start. Received DCNR Riparian Buffer Grant. Have a Growing Greener Grant submitted to also assist with this project. E&S workload is up compared to last year. District is in the process of accepting applications for DGR/LVR projects. Have received 11 applications. Lost Watershed Specialist and Bay technician. Down 50% in technical staff.

*Fulton* - Seleen reported that the District and NRCS held 5th annual Ag Winter Meeting with 100+ in attendance. Dr. Doug Beegle and York County famer Leroy Bupp gave presentations. Offered hauler and broker credits, as well as pesticide credits, which results in good attendance. Continue to work on several farms in ag-impaired Big Cove Creek watershed with our Growing Greener Grant. Partnering with NRCS EQIP funds on several projects and projects are in various stages of design and construction. District is in the process of hiring a full-time E&S technician/ag inspector; District has not had a full-time E&S position since 2007.

*Bedford* - John reported that the District received a CBP-SP grant to modify John Deere drills to add a crimper/roller to the equipment to roll down the cover crop to plant. Annual tree sale underway. John reported that he assisted with the Cover Crop Survey. John noted that there is a lot of cover cropping going on and he observed very few fall plowed fields.

### **State Conservation Commission (SCC) Report**

Karl Brown reported that staff continues to work on the NM Delegation Agreement Update. Commission will hopefully act on this in May and then it will go out to Districts. Karl highlighted list of changes to the delegation agreement. DGR/LVR Program Administrative Manual Update is underway. Proposed changes to the manual were circulated to districts for comment. Hope to approve this update in April. Karl reminded Districts that we are required to submit our fee schedules any time they are updated. Karl reported that PDA received a NFWF Water Quality Grant for local water quality improvement. SCC will be administering this grant. Karl reported on the Penn State Voluntary BMP Survey. EPA finally agreed to provide credit for the practices that were captured in this survey. Karl reminded members that Statement of Financial Interest forms are due May 1st. Karl reported two districts that are transitioning from county to independent districts: Butler and Cambria.

### **PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Report**

Fred Fiscus reported that Allegheny County raised the question if Districts need to consider veterans preference when hiring. DEP and the Commission are working to get a definitive answer if veterans preference needs to be applied and how to apply it. DEP funds for planning assistance - Nicki Kasi reported at the Bay meeting that an RFP is being prepared to administer the planning assistance program. Fred reported on the Governor's proposed budget and that for the most part, funding will be provided at levels equal to the current fiscal year. Watershed Specialist grant applications were due back last Friday. PA Envirothon volunteers are still needed. This year, every volunteer has to have background checks. Fred provided an update on PracticeKeeper. It is currently being tested in several districts. Once testing is complete, DEP

will be conducting initial training. CCD District Director and Staff Trainings have been held with 16 districts being represented. Trainings have received high marks from participants.

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report**

Lorin Boggs reported that NRCS is under a hiring freeze. Need to obligate \$14 million in funding across the Region. Will be a basic wetland ID workshop in York County on May 15th - 17th. Susan Kubo shared some information regarding Conservation Innovative Grant Program. Susan Marquart reported that DEP does not want to continue SWAT agreements under that current framework and so, NRCS is looking to make a new agreement with PACD instead. NRCS would run its money through PACD to Conservation Districts. Goal is to have this agreement into place by June 30th. Susan reported on RCPP application process and how it works to treat resource concerns in a particular area. Susan is the program manager for Pennsylvania.

### **Adjournment**

*It was moved by Murray Laite and seconded by Eric Naguski to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 PM. Motion carried.*