

**PACD South East Region Meeting
Franconia Heritage Restaurant, Telford, PA
March 23, 2017**

MINUTES

Attendance – Dean Druckenmiller, Berks; Brian Boyer, Berks; Piper Sherburne, Berks; Sharon Pletchan, Northampton; Ted Veresink; Northampton; Donald Mach, Northampton; Wendy McRoberts, Northampton; Susan Marquart, NRCS; Lorin Boggs, NRCS; Ted Veresink, Northampton; Karl Brown, SCC; Gretchen Schatschneider, Bucks; Luke Venasdalan, PACD; Glenn Seidel, Berks; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Chris Strohmaier, Chester; Desiree Henning, DEP SERO; Dave Jostenski, DEP HBG; Bill McFadden, Lehigh; Bill Erdman, Lehigh; Dan Hunsicker, Lehigh.

9:10 AM – Meeting called to order by Piper Sherburne. Pledge to the Flag.

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting scheduled for October 5, 2017

There was discussion about moving meeting time back 1 hour – it was decided to continue to start meetings at 9AM.

Chris Strohmaier from Chester has been investigating alternate locations in the King of Prussia area – Decision was made to remain at Franconia Restaurant.

Meeting with Dana Aunkst of PADEP schedule for SE PACD Region CDs at Berks County on May 2nd, 10AM – 12PM.

To refresh everyone's memory, Piper made a request to attendants to review meeting minutes regarding the motion to allow Associate Directors to be able to vote at PACD meetings on behalf of their CD.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved with a change to the person that made the motion regarding the Proposed PACD Bylaws Amendment – PACD Region Director. Motion should read made by Ted Veresink and second by Bill Erdman. Ted Veresink (Northampton) made motion. Chris Strohmaier (Chester) seconded the motion. Motion carried.



Proposed PACD Bylaws Amendment – PACD Region Director Eligibility

Motion was made by Bill Erdman (Lehigh) to oppose the amendment to the bylaws as written. Motion was second by Ted Veresink (Northampton). Motion carried.

A second Motion was made to oppose the policy that an Associate Director could replace a Regional Director and have voting rights. Bill Erdman (Lehigh) made the motion. Ted Veresink (Northampton) second the motion. Motion passed.

There was discussion about the need for director involvement at the PACD meetings.

Proposed PACD Bylaws Amendment – Article V & Article VI Conflicting Language

Motion was made to delete language in Article V to eliminate conflict with Article VI. Bill Erdman (Lehigh) made the motion. Second by Ted Veresink (Northampton). Motion carried.

Continued discussion on board member participation issue and that PACD should lead the charge with directors and not come from managers.

Also discussion the commissioners lack of understanding director duties when they appoint directors to a district board. It was mentioned that value must be shown to the directors to have them become more engaged and become more active.

PACD Report

Brenda Shambaugh (PACD) presented the following items/topics

- Announced that there will be 2 openings within the PACD Board to be filled at the July meeting. The 1st and 2nd Vice President positions will be open.
- State budget information and Governor's proposed budget was discussed. She said the PDA/DEP funding for conservation districts is in the Governor's proposed budget but foresee another lengthy budget process.
- CDs should consider making a contingency plan to cover salaries after the July 1 deadline has passed.
- Concern on grants and payments on committed money that has already been contracted if budget does not pass by July 1.
- April 23-30 is CD week in Harrisburg
- Legal service is available for CD use. Firm in Carlisle.
- TAG program report from Luke Vanasdalan. including a discussion about the work he is doing with various CDs.

District Sharing:

Before districts shared their information, introductions were performed.

Lehigh

- Hired a new environmental educator
- Holding a legislative breakfast on April 28
- CD is going to act as MS4 agent for the county

Chester

- Delaware RCPP about half way complete
- Applying for a C-Bay RCPP grant for AG BMP work
- Associate director passed away suddenly from cancer. He was a 10 year member

Bucks

- Saturday 3/25 doing a cleanup event for “Keep Bucks Beautiful”
- ICIS and database working on glitches for uploading permit info
- Tablets being purchased for field staff to improve efficiency
- Preparing for annual audit and developed a waiver for interns
- Preparing to conduct a sediment dredging project at Lake Luxemborg which would help meet the TMDL for the watershed
- CD Week – Gretchen plans to meet with the legislators

Northampton

- Staffing issues, hired a new E&S Tech and just had an E&S Tech resign. Need to fill soon.
- CD Week, they will invite legislators to their Envirothon events.
- Have had high amount of sponsorships for Envirothon this year.
- First LVR project being awarded, \$100K for a stormwater attenuation project.

Berks

- Have E&S staff openings. Plan to fill soon.
- Planning for April events, Seedling Sale, Backyard basics, etc.
- Planning for 70th anniversary of the CD
- Received grant for Spotted Lantern Fly outreach. Preparing for first workshop.
- Building renovation project planned by the County and in process of renegotiating lease agreement.
- Plan on meeting with legislators in the Capitol on April 25th

Partner Reports

Before partner reports Karl Brown asked about E&S/NPDES permit turnaround times. Discussion about how DEP regions operate on different timetables.

SCC Report

Karl Brown provided a handout of the topics being presented at the meeting.

- Nutrient Management delegation agreement being updated – discussed the new ROMs
- DGLVR changes to the admin manual have been completed and ready for SCC approval. Reminded that it’s the 20th anniversary of this program
- DGLVR QA/QC checks have been ongoing and almost complete. Biggest question has been how to handle financials with in the CD.
- Reminder that when fee schedules change they should be sent into the SCC
- PDA receives NFWF grant for Lancaster Co. farms for planning, technical assistance and BMP installation.
- Review briefly the PSU voluntary survey information
- NRCS remote sensing seeking approval to be used to count BMPs
- Reminder that ethics agreements due by May 1st

- Two CDs Cambria & Butler are transitioning into an independent CDs from their respective county governments.
- A question was raised about if CDs have to give preference to veterans for new hires – question(s) are being investigated

DEP Report

Dave Jostenski provided the following information:

- Staff Changes (again) – Kelly Heffner now the Executive Deputy Secretary of Programs. John Stefanko is the Deputy Secretary of Mining Operations and Dana Aunkst is Deputy Secretary for Water Programs and Water Resources
- Governor’s proposed budget funding levels remained the same with the exception of Chesapeake Bay Abatement program reduced by \$54,000
- Watershed Specialist applications are coming in
- Envirothon volunteers are needed for 5/23-5/24
- Katie Mattern is new district field rep for the North Central
- PracticeKeeper update – PK is being tested on select CDs – training events upcoming – DEP to provide for funding for three licenses per CD
- CD director trainings upcoming
- Drought condition update for the state – SE region still in low flow and GW conditions
- State Water Plan committee still needs directors to serve on committee
- Brenda added – DEP is changing the 102/105 Annual Meeting in the fall to regional events.

NRCS Report

Susan Marquart and Loren Boggs provided the following:

- Hosea Latshaw is retiring and NRCS currently under a hiring freeze
- \$14 Million has to be obligated by 5/1
- Training – Basic Wetland ID Workshop on 5/15 in York County
- New timesheet has been distributed for partners engaged in an agreement with NRCS
- HPAI outbreak in Tennessee – still need to follow biosecurity protocols.
- RCPP 2018 Grant Round is open – good opportunity for CDs with ability to focus efforts on a specific area
- Webinar for RCPP applications on 4/15

Adjournment

12:20 PM - Motion was made to adjourn by Chris (Chester). Motion was 2nd by Bill E (Lehigh). Motion carried