PACD
PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, INC.
NORTH EAST REGION

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

PACD North East Region Meeting
DEP Northeast Regional Office, Wilkes-Barre, PA
October 20, 2017

Welcome and Introductions
PACD North East Regional Director Kelly Stagen welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested a roll call of voting members for each county present: Audrey Wargo, Carbon; Tim Ference, Luzerne; Adam Schellhammer , Monroe; Kelly Stagen, Pike; Jenna St. Claire, Schuylkill; Jim Garner, Susquehanna; Jamie Knecht, Wayne; Dorne White, Wyoming.

In attendance: Audrey Wargo, Carbon; Shane Kleiner, DEP; Karen Books, DEP; Josh Longmore, Luzerne; Tim Ference, Luzerne; John Hanish, Luzerne; Adam Schellhammer, Monroe; Nancy DiFiore, NRCS; Susan Marquart, NRCS; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Nathan Brophy; PACD; Andy Wodehouse, PACD; Michele Long, Pike; Kelly Stagen, Pike; Sally Corrigan, Pike; Ben Vaupel, Schuylkill; Glenn Luckenbill, Schuylkill; Jenna St. Claire, Schuylkill; Jim Garner, Susquehanna; Mary Ann Warren, Susquehanna; Jamie Knecht, Wayne; Doug Deutsch, Wyoming; Dorne White, Wyoming; Jim Luce, Wyoming; Johan Berger, SCC.

Region Director Election- Brenda Shambaugh asked for nominations from the floor for next Regional Director. Kelly Stagen stated she would be willing to accept another term. There were no other nominations from the floor. Adam Schellhammer made a motion to elect Kelly Stagen for another term as PACD Northeast Region Director. Audrey Wargo seconded. Motion carried.

Date for Next Meeting
The next Northeast Regional meeting was set for Friday, April 13, 2018 at the DEP Northeast Regional Office.

Approval of Minutes for the Previous Meeting
It was moved by Jim Garner and seconded by Jenna St. Claire to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

PACD Update
Brenda Shambaugh provided an update on the current discussions regarding the budget thanking Districts for reaching out to legislators during this crucial time and asked to continue to be diligent with legislators about the importance of District funding.

Brenda stated there were a number of volunteer opportunities. There will be a Strategic Planning meeting prior to the January meeting for Directors interested in participating. There are a number of Committees looking for volunteers and they will be looking for Districts to man a booth at the upcoming 2018 Farm show.

DRAFT

Adam Wodehouse and Nathan Brophy provided an update on the technical engineering assistance that is available to Districts and discussed projects they are currently working on in the Northeast region.

NACD and NRCS are currently working on a nationwide program for conservation planning for priority areas and are looking for participation. Each project could receive up to $50,000. There is a November application period with notification of funding expected in March 2018.

Brenda Shambaugh discussed the **Proposed Legislative policy** which states, "*PACD opposes legislation to shorten the permit review period for Erosion and Sedimentation Nutrient Management and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System plan reviews and permit approval."*

Based on discussions with Districts current efforts to expedite the permitting process would mean more permits may be denied due to issues beyond the control of Districts and sometimes the permittee. Permittees would have to start over rather than get an extension which is currently the procedure and more expeditious for the permittee.

Jim Garner made a motion to support the policy as presented. Tim Ference seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Brenda Shambaugh discussed the **Proposed Armstrong Conservation District Resolution Regarding the Distribution of UGWF Funds by the SCC.** The resolution is in reference to the distribution of UGWF funds to CD's if there is a reduction in overall CDFAP funding by the state legislature. Karen Books provided examples of how the funds would be distributed if the proposal was approved based on proposed current funding.

Jim Garner made a motion to support the resolution as presented. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Jamie Knecht made a motion to oppose the resolution as presented. Tim Ference seconded the motion. There was some discussion on the resolution. A roll call vote was requested. All Districts except Susquehanna opposed the resolution. The motion passed.

Brenda Shambaugh also mentioned Terry Fisher will be retiring at years end.

Regional Information Sharing

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

Carbon – Audrey Wargo reported Carbon has received a number of complaints on problem sites in the county and their annual banquet will be in early November.

Monroe – Adam Schellhammer reported Monroe CD will be adding the Act 38 delegation agreement. They are also working with PennDOT on completing an agreement where the District would provide services to PennDOT and PennDOT would complete restoration projects in county. They will also be celebrating their 70th Anniversary and are looking forward to demonstrate the rain simulator.

Schuylkill – Jenna St Claire reported they are working on an Associate Director policy based on involvement with District activities and attendance.

Susquehanna – Jim Garner reported Their 70th Anniversary Banquet will be November 8, 2017 and Denise Coleman, NRCS will be the speaker. There is a large church complex and a county housing authority projects under construction as well as four major pipelines throughout the county and miles of gathering lines being constructed.

Wayne – Jamie Knecht reported they will be promoting their Maple tour in March 2018. There are a number of DGLVR projects currently being installed and they will be looking for an Erosion and Sediment technician in the spring.

Wyoming – The Wyoming CD is closing on a legacy property where they will be holding their Conservation District Field Days. The Atlantic pipeline project and compressor stations will be in Wyoming. Their annual Banquet is tonight with presenter Bill Streeter.

Luzerne –Josh Longmore reported their erosion and sediment control plan submissions remain steady. The District will be evaluating their education and outreach program and are also looking into upgrades of the District building.

Pike – Sally Corrigan reported they will be looking for a new Conservation Outreach Coordinator and are working on a 2018 education and outreach plan. The Orion Pipeline is currently being constructed across a major waterway along with a number of large PennDOT reconstruction projects in the county. Their Annual Dinner will be the end of October and a Trivia challenge will the highlight of the evening.

Partner Reports

SCC – Johan Berger distributed the SCC report. Johan discussed the nominating process, the timber harvest action packet updates, and updates on the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road updates.

NRCS – Nancy DiFiore and Susan Marquart provided a brief review of the NRCS submitted report. Nancy highlighted the importance of Districts participation in the local working groups which are held quarterly. Susan mentioned the new administration is looking to consolidate services and equipment. Training opportunities for Districts was also discussed.

DEP – Karen Books provided a brief review of the submitted report, including the listening session, and updates coming from the Central office. CDFAP reimbursement submissions are on hold until the budget is finalized and the current email setup is not working. They are looking for volunteers to assist with the State Water Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.