

**PACD North East Region Meeting
DEP Northeast Regional Office, Wilkes-Barre, PA
April 13, 2018**

Welcome and Introductions

PACD North East Regional Director Kelly Stagen welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested a roll call.

In attendance: Audrey Wargo (Carbon); Shane Kleiner (DEP); Karen Books (DEP); Mike Bedrin (DEP); Gerry Stiles (Lackawanna); Tim Ference (Luzerne); John Hanish (Luzerne); Adam Schellhammer (Monroe); Nancy DiFiore (NRCS); Denise Coleman (NRCS); Brenda Shambaugh (PACD); Nathan Brophy (PACD); Andy Wodehouse (PACD); Michele Long (Pike); Kelly Stagen (Pike); Chris Ingulli (Pike); Karl Brown (SCC); Ben Vaupel (Schuylkill); Glenn Luckenbill (Schuylkill); Jamie Knecht (Wayne); Jack Barnett (Wayne); Doug Deutsch (Wyoming); Dorne White (Wyoming); Jim Luce (Wyoming); Bob Robinson (Wyoming); Neil Tague (Wyoming)

Date for Next Meeting

The next Northeast Regional meeting was set for October 12, 2018 at the DEP Northeast Regional Office. Meeting will begin at 10 am.

Dates to meet with Tim Schaeffer (Deputy Secretary of DEP for Water)

Meeting date set for June 22, 2018 at the DEP Northeast Regional Office beginning at 10 am. This is an opportunity for District's to meet with the new Deputy Secretary of DEP for Water.

Approval of Minutes for the Previous Meeting

Motion made by Jamie Knecht to approve meeting minutes from the October 20, 2017. Seconded by Audrey Wargo. Motion carried.

PACD Update

Brenda Shambaugh reported that a new strategic plan was developed in January. Strategic planning committee was interested in working with partners, legislators, and the general public to spread information regarding Districts and District Programs. Improve communication where possible. Shambaugh discussed the Zimmerman Bill and partner's role in explaining the negative impacts of the proposed bill to legislators. Funding was also discussed in the strategic plan. PACD looking for alternatives for dedicated funding and dedicated funding for Growing Greener grants.

PACD Executive Committee requested **three** items from the strategic plan be discussed at the regional meetings. First, PACD owns current office building in Harrisburg; executive committee



wants input from members regarding how to proceed with building operation. Options provided for discussion were sell the building, keep the building, or rent. The group discussed the pros and cons of all options. No decisions have been made. Shambaugh will provide a report of discussion to Executive Committee.

Second, Executive Committee would like group to discuss the winter meeting. Due to weather complications participation at these meetings has been low. Executive Committee would like to know if the meeting could be eliminated, could an online/webinar meeting be done, could there be one annual meeting. The group discussed the pros and cons of each option. No decisions have been made. Shambaugh will provide a report of the discussion to the Executive Committee.

Third, getting volunteers for the conventions where PACD has a booth, specifically the Farm Show, Agriculture Progress Days, and Township Supervisors is difficult. Therefore, the Executive Committee would like suggestions on how to get more volunteers and modify booths to appeal to target audiences. The group discussed ways to improve booths through partnering with other agencies and modifying booth content to reach the audience that is attending. No decisions were made. Shambaugh will provide a report of the discussion to the Executive Committee.

Shambaugh asked that Districts let her know what they will be doing for Conservation District week. Shambaugh discussed the importance of outreach to Legislators and developing positive relationships. Shambaugh also recommended using District highlights page to reach legislators. The budget was presented by the governor in February. The House introduced their budget bill; DEP and Department of Agriculture conservation district lines in both agencies have been flat-lined.

PACD received grant from DCNR for Riparian Buffers. Multifunctional Riparian Buffers projects are eligible to receive funding. Grant total of \$250,000 for the next three years. No paperwork yet, therefore no details to share. Should be able to provide and update in May.

Shambaugh discussed personnel updates. Amy Salansky was hired as PACD Program Manager. TAG Engineer was also hired. Interviews happening next week for Leadership Development Coordinator.

TAG Engineers Update (Nathan Brophy & Andy Wodehouse)

Manure storage and heavy use area projects being worked on throughout the region.

Regional Information Sharing

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

Carbon – Audrey Wargo provided the following update: Poster contest next week. Envirothon 2nd week of May. Wind turbine project received by their office. Having bio-solids issues with a local farmer.

Monroe – Adam Schellhammer provided the following update: NPDES workshop held in January (200 attendees). Launching Conservation Camp for Adults program. Earth Day

celebration upcoming on Saturday. Friends of Conservation Dinner last Friday and played Conservation Family Feud with Legislators.

Schuylkill – Glen Luckenbill provided the following update: State approached District to become part of the West Nile Virus Program; staff hired to fill that position. Watershed festival on June 3rd. Ben Vaupel provided an update on the Biochar program they have been involved with.

Lackawanna – Gerry Stiles provided the following update: Seedling sale upcoming. Planning an Engineers Workshop. Help a farmland preservation event and received Chesapeake Bay special project grant.

Wayne – Jamie Knecht provided the following update: Holding sessions on May 1st for Spotted Lantern Fly. Offering training and exams to obtain certification to inspect their own goods. Seedling sale next week. Envirothon the week following. Hiring new DGLVR Technician and new E&S Technician started in March.

Wyoming – Doug Deutsch provided the following update: Contractors workshop held (250 attendees). Seedling sale next week. Recently purchased property where Conservation Field Days are held.

Luzerne – Tim Ference provided the following update: Benefit will be held next Saturday to benefit the family of Josh Longmore. Two Growing Greener Grants acquired; \$300,000 for agriculture BMPs; ~\$300,000 for streambank projects. Maintained close contacts with legislators.

Pike – Michele Long provided the following update: Sally Corrigan's last day was April 6, 2018. PCCD board requested that job description be revisited and revised during transition. Chris Ingulli was promoted to Administrative Manager and will be handling all of the DGLVR program. The District is looking for a new Resource Conservationist with a deadline of April 20th for applications. Long provided an update of the District's DGLVR program. Pike/Wayne Legislative Breakfast was held at the Lackawac Sanctuary on April 6, 2018.

Partner Reports

SCC – Karl Brown provided a review of the SCC report which include the new Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road 5-year agreement. Discussed importance of audits and separation of duties.

NRCS – Nancy DiFiore and Denise Coleman provided a brief review of the NRCS submitted report.

DEP –Karen Books provided a brief review of the DEP Central Office submitted report. Shane Kleiner stated May 7th will be the date of the Watershed Specialist meeting held at the DEP Northeast Regional Office.

Adjournment

Motion made by Tim Ference to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Gerry Stiles. Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.