

**PACD South Central Region Meeting  
Cumberland County Conservation District, Carlisle, PA  
March 20, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.**

**Welcome and Introductions**

PACD South Central Region Director John Akers called the meeting to order

In attendance: Jennifer Lentz Kovacs, Bedford; Jim Bench, Bedford; Chris Snyder, Juniata; Dave Stoner, Franklin; Mark Kimmel, York; Jack Dehoff, York; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; John Akers, Bedford; Chris Thompson, Lancaster; Ken Meck, Lancaster; Jeff Sholly, PACD; Susan Kubo, NRCS; Lynn Sick, NRCS; Fred Fiscus, PA DEP; Lynnette Gelsinger, Lebanon; Randall Leisure, Lebanon; Carl Goshorn, Cumberland; Wilbur Wolf, Cumberland; Kelsey Miller, DCNR Forestry; Adam McClain, Adams; Karl Brown, SCC; Seleen Shives, Fulton; Eric Naguski, Dauphin.

**Set Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, October 23, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cumberland County Conservation District office.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting of October 17, 2017, were provided for review.

Motion by Wilbur Wolf to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Jack Dehoff. Motion carried.

**PACD Business and Report**

A meeting with DEP Deputy Secretary Tim Schaeffer has been scheduled for May 7 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cumberland County Conservation District.

Brenda reported on several meetings – CCAP sessions, Districts 101 and what Districts are doing and funding activity with District programs. Several managers partnered on that presentation.

Brenda also discussed the Strategic Plan. There are seven priorities; ongoing efforts to implement them. It is key to improve relationships with partners, specifically PA DEP and State Conservation Commission (reference Brenda's Spring Region Meeting Report for details)

PACD Office Building - Should we keep, sell or seek another space? Maintenance issues, parking, roof replacement/repair (\$30,000.00 estimate). Feedback would be to stay close to Capitol, leasing would relieve staff of work. Cost analysis of renting/leasing vs. owning was discussed. Value of PACD building at present is \$450,000.00. 3,500 square feet would be needed



in new building and \$20.00/square foot is an estimate for rental. PACD hosts multiple meetings per year. The Executive Committee can't meet at PACD because of lack of parking space. We need to carefully consider the cost v. benefit of owning, renting or leasing. Parking spaces for lease or rent are not likely due to frequency. Successful ownership often involves tenant rent. USDA has office space available there now. If the decision is sell the PACD building, the proceeds from the sale would be invested.

### **Annual PACD Winter Meeting**

A discussion was held on the necessity of holding a winter meeting and, if not, what other options might be available. Could we consider swapping the region meetings with the annual meeting? Are two statewide meetings per year necessary? Most of the folks felt it was important to continue winter meetings. February is a good time for staff and we should consider farm member availability.

### **Farm Show Support (booth)**

PACD staff finds it a challenge every year to find volunteers to staff the booth. How much interaction with our clients/target audience occurs? We believe it is a limited amount. If we would not participate in Farm Show, what would be other alternatives? Could we have a display at the "Know Your Farmer" section? DCNR and NRCS are interested in partnerships with PACD for Farm Show.

### **Ag Progress Days**

Feel this is a better audience as it consists of our clients.

### **Keystone Farm Show**

This event is held in York and definitely draws more farmers. This show runs Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the same week as Farm Show.

### **PSATS**

Not a lot of engagement at present. We need to examine how we are marketing Districts which would fall under the PACD Marketing Plan. If DGLVR is there, that would be important. We need to explore partnerships. April is a tough time for Districts to add more work/events to their schedules.

### **Conservation District Week (April 15-22)**

This effort was very successful last year. PACD is asking all districts to do something that week. Visiting legislators is a worthwhile initiative. Brenda provided the districts a template for a Conservation District promo release—maybe work to obtain a Commissioner's Proclamation. This event corresponds with Earth Day. The districts need to invite legislators to events, i.e. in conjunction with Envirothon.

### **Budget**

Funding for Conservation Districts is flat lined in the Governor's and House budgets. We need to let legislators know of issues. Brenda indicated that she expected the budget to be on time as this is an election year. A large number of legislators are retiring.

Staffing - Interviews are being scheduled to Somerset Office TAG Professional Engineer; Leadership Development Coordinator; and Program Manager.

Legislative Budget & Finance Committee Study - Chapter 102 & 105 – Districts will be included in the study and will be complete within the year.

Zimmerman Bill - Rep. Zimmerman indicated that he is no longer planning on pursuing this legislation. Facts made the case that plans get approved more quickly than legislation requires (180 vs. 270 days).

Other - No Managers' Summit in June; perhaps later in the year. TAG staff are available for assisting district with technical support.

### **District Sharing**

**Adams** - 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Soil Health meeting held. Placed a new Watershed Specialist. Hiring a West Nile person. Hired Envirothon participants. Trout in classroom. Conservation District Week activities planned – presenting their Annual Report.

**Bedford** - Conservation District Week – seedlings for 3-4 graders in the County. Clean up projects. New hire – NAACC involvement to study culverts (1,800 in County).

**Blair** - Provided a written report.

**Cumberland** - May 9-10 will be DGLVR training in Shippensburg. \$500,000 in Ag Tech Funds G.G./Bay S.P.. DGLVR Project Application – Bid \$206,000 to \$325,000. Assistant Manager position created. Tree sale planned for Conservation District week.

**Dauphin** - Assessing 5 watersheds in Dauphin County – 5 year cycle – most are improving. Down several staff on Ag team. 15-20 acre buffer grant application motivated by MS4. Bay Special Project Grant for Ag BMP's wrapping up. Stream restoration work being completed. Planning to meet with legislators during Conservation District Week.

**Franklin** - 3 Manure Management workshops were held over the winter. New Ag Tech. Lost an E&S Tech. Writing an Ag E&S Plan – 100+ on waiting list. DGLVR tour scheduled in April. Relief Buffer project.

**Fulton** - Sponsoring a Chamber luncheon for Conservation District Week. DGLVR Projects. Placing an E & S Tech.

**Juniata** - Envirothon during Conservation District Week. Training new people. Stream restoration work on Lost Creek – contractors not available until next year. DCNR Buffer Grants on-going. DGLVR applications continue to come in.

**Lancaster** - DGLVR projects approved and will have another application cycle for spring. Bay – Lancaster is key. Clean Water Partners organized – LCCD staff person to be the coordinator.

Staff turnover is a concern. Ag vacancies are not being filled until funding is received. Filling a second Watershed Specialist position. Bob Wagner, Director Emeritus will be nominated for recognition at Awards Banquet. Planning a tree sale during Conservation District Week.

**Lebanon** - Provided a written report. Legislative roundtable is scheduled for April or May

**York** - Provided written report

## **Partner Reports**

### **DCNR**

- \$250,000 Grant do to multi-functional buffers (3 years)
- PENNVEST – Funding up to \$3,000,000 for grants over 3 years. Must pre-qualify do districts are now eligible through PACD?
- Relief NFWF grant - \$380,000 and 7 county region
- Riparian Buffer – hoping for gap funding or non-government funds. Funds through Western PA Conservancy \$4,000/acre, 3 year grants can fund maintenance
- Can share maps and lists of data for buffer sites. Several folks on staff are able to support CREP Riparian Buffers
- PACD – 25 year agreement between landowners and district/PACD. Keep buffer in and maintain for 25 years. 15’ average buffer. No match reimbursement
- NOTE: See Ombudsman if there is interest in hosting an Ag E&S Plan writing workshop with the Center for Dairy Excellence

### **State Conservation Commission**

- Provided a written report
- Timber Harvest Packet – hope to get template out this spring and a manual out later this year
- Spotted Lanternfly a problem – PACD on Invasive Species Council
- DGLVR – spend the money quickly. First 5-year Agreement funding must be spent by 06/30/19.
- For 1 year, will have 2 agreements in place for the 1-year extension

### **DEP**

Provided written report. A question posed: how much of the \$1.5 million dedicated to planning went to the two consultants administering the program?

### **NRCS**

- Handout was provided
- 180 employees now and 150 affiliated FTE’s providing office space and equipment and supplies to cooperatively implement the mission
- PA Conservation Innovation Grants - \$75,000
- CSP Renewals through April 1
- RCPP are designed for districts
- Local work groups are valued – Locally led NRCS looking for special local needs

**Adjournment at 12:15 PM**