

PACD Southeast Regional Meeting - April 26, 2018

Piper called meeting to order at 9:05

Lots of new faces, therefore introductions were conducted prior to start of the meeting.

Set Date to next meeting- November 1, 2018.

- Discuss start time, consider moving start time back a half hour or an hour.
- Decided to start the next meeting at 9:30AM.
- Location – keep at the Franconia Restaurant.

Discuss meeting with Deputy Secretary Tim Schaeffer at PADEP – Determine June 18th at 10AM to be the best. Location = Berks County Conservation District.

Approve the Minutes from the last regional meeting – Oct 5, 2017. Motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded and approved.

Brenda's Report

Discuss working on communication with PADEP offices and personnel.

- Work on improving relationships. Continue with roundtable meetings as they help with dialogue.
- Provide recap of meeting with Pat Patterson from SE Regional DEP office.

Discussed sustainable and diverse funding.

Need for SLF/Invasive species funding dedication.

- Mention Berks Co CD proposal to help control SLF and assist with Tree of Heaven Removal.

Top 3 Things

- 1) PACD office building
 - Keep, Sell it, or Rent a new building space/condo type or purchase a different building
 - Need to do what's best – explore options – strong consideration for financial situation.
- 2) PACD Winter meeting & lack of attendance
 - Look to obtain event insurance due to weather problems.
 - If no winter meeting have a business webinar as an alternative.
 - Still need more director involvement and participation.
 - Attendance may be topic driven, need for good topics in addition to business topics.
 - Change timeframe to Spring/Fall to avoid weather issues of winter.
- 3) PACD Booth at events
 - Need to help in manning the booth.
 - Combine booth with NRCS at farm show.
 - Have some type of program for kids – homemade ice cream was a big hit at other booths.

Conservation District Week Re-Cap

Brenda thought it was a huge success again and a big hit with legislators in the capital building

Pa Budget-

- Election year likely to have a budget sooner than last year
- CD funds are flat lined
- Increase in the Environmental Stewardship funds (Growing Greener)
- Make sure legislators understand funding concerns re: surplus – target legislators that don't understand funding for CDs.

PACD Staffing

- Received \$750,000 for riparian buffers over next 3 years – focus on “multi purpose” buffers – waiting on the paper work, hope to have funds available in the fall for planting
- Turnover within PACD – Hiring a leadership development coordinator and will be offering the job to a candidate shortly. A new Program Manager and a TAG Engineer have been employed.

Legislative Budget & Finance Study

- For the 102/105 program a study to be conducted on program, results available within a year and some CDs may be contacted to provide information on the program.

Zimmerman Bill

- Bill introduced to speed up review times for nutrient management plans
- Bill will not be considered

NACD Conference in Nashville (Chris S from Chester CD attended and gave a recap)

- Said there was info on SLF at the conference
- Ohio Farmers are against buffers and believes PA farmers are much more progressive than other farmers around the country with regards to environmental stewardship.

Three Things from CDs

Lehigh County CD

- 1) Work with Lehigh / Carbon County Community college to develop educational videos complete
- 2) Working with Allentown HS to develop an AG curriculum.
- 3) 102/105 program - Discussed the need for verbal or electronic guidance changes from PADEP to be made public and not kept as internal. Not getting consistent guidance from DEP Regional offices. Would like written guidance that can be provided to public. Internal only changes makes CDs look bad when implemented.

Delaware County CD

- 1) Staff problems – county slow to hire, need for a watershed specialist and an admin. person
- 2) Envirothon is completed – there is a youtube video available.
- 3) Preparing to do more 102 training videos.

Bucks County CD

- 1) Envirothon was on 4/25 – Neshaminy HS was the winner.
- 2) Awarded a SARE grant – to study nutrient movement in shallow groundwater tables.

- 3) Safety Training completed- basic site construction safety. Need for a roadside construction training and a field training with heavy equipment.

Berks County CD

- 1) Events coming up - Envirothon, Don Hartman Leadership School and a tire collection.
- 2) Trout in the Classroom – Board of Directors dedicated funding to schools for equipment, food and other expenses so that schools can participate. Goal is to have 1 set up in each of the Berks County Schools.
- 3) Source Water Protection program – Berks CD is the coordinator for this program. Recently received the Governors Environmental Excellence award.
- 4) Getting ready for hatching of Spotted Lantern Fly. Doing lots of educational outreach. Submitted a proposal to PDA to set up a funding program to help control SLF.

Montgomery County CD

- 1) Participated in 3 earth day events.
- 2) Stream Restoration Project in East Greenville is ongoing.
- 3) No Till rental program – 3 Farmers used the No Till equipment this spring and had 2 demonstration days.
- 4) Workshop in King of Prussia for hospitality/restaurant owners/managers that discuss prevention of pollution events and stormwater management.
- 5) Envirothons coming up, Dirt Gravel Low Volume road projects starting.
- 6) New position open for part-time Admin.

Chester County CD

- 1) RCPP-Delaware grant is in the implementation mode. Doesn't look like NFWF going to extend the grant.
- 2) NACD- during the NE Regional conference, the auxiliary is going to Longwood Gardens.
- 3) C-Bay Reboot- on track with inspections. Wrote 25 plans for 100 inspections. Staff tends to get overloaded but going well.
- 4) PennVest projects to team up with Team AG and help with engineering.
- 5) History tidbit – An Ag producers meeting held in Chester County in 1948 had 10,000 people attend.

Partner Reports

SCC – see handouts

- 1) Budgets proposed for 18/19 year have CD funds flat lined. Discussed using your CD audit as a tool to demonstrate use of funds to respective legislators.
- 2) SLF – Lots of info getting out to the public. Share the Berks proposal to PDA with Karl Brown and Sect Redding.
- 3) DGLVR – 5 year agreements are out for signature/approval. New tracking system to be implemented to improve funding tracking to help CDs and SCC.
- 4) Leadership Development – SCC and PACD to hire a coordinator. First duty will be to organize the Manager Summit for early Fall.

PADEP – see talking points

- 1) New Staff = New Watershed Chief – Scott Carney. Watershed Program Specialist for Watershed Support is Ann Devine. New NPDES Construction and E&S Control Chief is Nate Crawford
- 2) Watershed Specialist Program application now open online, use of E-grants system.

NRCS – see handouts

- 1) Develop Strategic Plan 2016-2020 - focus on water availability.
- 2) SWAT program will be ended this year.

Motion to adjourn – Jessica (Montgomery), Second by Ed (Delaware)

DRAFT