PACD Conservation Committee
Toftrees Golf Resort, State College, PA
January 17, 2018

Welcome and Roll Call
Chairman Adam Cotchen welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:15 AM.

Committee members in attendance: Bill Kahler, Lycoming; Dave Stoner, Franklin; John Akers, Bedford; Kelly McLaughlin, Allegheny; Carl Goshorn, Cumberland; Jack Dehoff, York; Sherry Dumire, McKean; Piper Sherburne, Berks; Rob Shannon, Centre; Adam Cotchen, Indiana; Mark Davidson, Lycoming.

Guests in attendance: Nathan Brophy, PACD; Jeff Sholly, PACD; Andy Wodehouse, PACD; Phil Wilson, PACD; Randi Tyler, PACD; Luke Vanasdalan, PACD; Amanda Coleman, NRCS; Mary Wagner, Columbia; Celina Seftas, Huntingdon; Bill Deitrick, Union; Dennis Beck, Cambria; Nancy Difiore, NRCS; Jeff Werner, NRCS; Cameron Koons, Lycoming; Diana Dellinger, NRCS; Maryruth Wagner, Columbia; Jay Russell, Mercer.

Minutes of the July 12, 2017 Meeting
The minutes of the previous meeting were provided for review.

It was moved by Piper Sherburne and seconded by Kelly McLaughlin to approve the minutes of July 12, 2017, as presented. Motion carried.

PACD Strategic Planning Update
Brenda Shambaugh reported that the committee met yesterday and developed seven priorities to review. Brenda explained that she requested priorities and suggestions from the membership, which were then consolidated and distributed to the committee. The committee was made up of eleven PACD Executive Board members, six managers (one from each region), and three PACD staff. Committee members in attendance noted a clear consensus among the committee members. Piper Sherburne stressed the importance of keeping invasive species in mind as we work through our priorities.

Brenda reviewed the top three priorities:

- PACD will promote and advocate for conservation districts to elected officials, partners, and the general public.
- PACD will help districts with the recruitment, training, and development of directors, managers, and staff.
- PACD will help districts attain sustainable, diverse funding.

General Legislative Update

Brenda Shambaugh provided an update on a number of legislative items.

<u>HB 1932 (Representative Zimmerman)</u>

Brenda reported that PACD is advocating for an amendment that holds planners to a time-frame and gives the State Conservation Commission a greater ability to hold planners accountable.

<u>Update on the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP)</u>

There was some talk about the legislature taking money from the CDFAP earlier in the budget process, along with a number of other non-lapsing funds. This was based upon a misunderstanding about the status of the funds in the fund. Namely, those involved were led to believe that the money in the CDFAP is surplus money, when in truth that money has all been allocated and are distributed on a reimbursement basis. Brenda has been provided with some reassurance that the funds are safe for this fiscal year. However, the misunderstandings about how the fund works likely continues. In order to ensure that we do not encounter this problem again, we need to educate our legislators so that they understand that this is <u>not</u> surplus money.

<u>CD Highlights Project</u>

Brenda has been requesting a page of highlights from each district to help outreach to the legislators. Each legislator will receive the pages for each conservation district in their legislative district. There are about fifteen districts who have not submitted their highlights pages. Brenda encouraged these districts to provide her with these pages as soon as posible, so that they can be included when Brenda distributes them to the legislators when they come back in session.

Other Items

Brenda announced that Tim Schaeffer, the new Deputy Secretary for Water Programs, is in attendance today. She encouraged everyone to introduce themselves. He has indicated that he has a strong interest in working with conservation districts.

Adjourn

It was moved by Jack Dehoff and seconded by Sherry Dumire to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.