

**PACD South East Region Meeting
Franconia Heritage Restaurant, Telford PA
November 1, 2018**

Call to Order

South East Region Director Piper Sherburne welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

In attendance: Karen Books, DEP; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Dan Dostie, NRCS; Matt Miller, PACD; Karl Brown, SCC; Linda Mackey, DEP; Charlie Hanner, NRCS; Sharon Pletchan, Northampton; Cheryl Graff Tumola, Delaware; Ted Veresink, Northampton; Tara Zrinski, Northampton; Piper Sherburne, Berks; Chris Strohmaier, Chester; Ed Magargee, Delaware; Dean Druckenmiller, Berks; Brian Boyer, Berks; Bill McFadden, Lehigh; Luke Vanasdalan, PACD TAG; Jeff Sholly, PACD TAG.

Date of Next Meeting

The group determined that the next meeting will take place on April 4, 2019, at Hennings Restaurant in Harleysville.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were provided for review.

It was moved by Bill McFadden and seconded by Ed Magargee to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Piper Sherburne Update/Discussion on Spotted Lanternfly

Piper Sherburne began the meeting with a discussion of her participation in the Invasive Species Policy Group through NACD, detailing their efforts to have the spotted lanternfly placed on the national invasive species list. She requested letters of support for the workgroup. Karl Brown encouraged cooperation between adjoining districts, reinforced the SCC's partnership commitment, and advised that districts take a more proactive stance toward their role in spotted lanternfly eradication beyond community outreach/education. Bill McFadden mentioned the possibility of a full-time position (combined with mosquito control) for Lehigh, and that they have focused on working with private landowners. Jessica Buck reported that Montgomery has chosen to target the county park system for inventory/eval activities. Ed Magargee reported that Delaware is coordinating outreach/education with local community groups.

PACD Report

Brenda provided highlights from her written report:

- PACD has commissioned Water Words that Work to develop a Marketing Toolkit to help conservation districts publicize the great work they do.



- The toolkit will be useful to reach out to legislators, particularly new legislators coming in after November. It is critical to get to know these legislators before the new budget cycle.
- Regional grant opportunities may be available for areas battling damage from recent storms.
- The PACD three-year budget cycle is coming to an end. Brenda asked if a) the districts would like to look at a new three-year budget, and b) if the districts would be open to a small dues increase of \$50 to \$100, should a dues increase be needed,. The group indicated they support another three-year budget cycle and a small dues increase, if needed.
- PACD is moving on November 9. The current PACD building at 25 North Front Street in Harrisburg is listed for sale.
- PACD is looking at combining the Legislative and Conservation Committees. They address similar issues and it is hard to obtain quorums. It was suggested that we try to increase director participation, and consider changing the Conservation Committee agenda to reflect potential and upcoming conservation issues, rather than focusing on current legislation. The group agreed that we should see how a combined meeting in January might go.
- In July, the PACD Executive Council voted to create an ad hoc committee to provide input on the sale of the Harrisburg building and the purchase of the condo. The PACD Executive Board is asking the membership if they want them to move forward with an ad hoc committee, given where we are in the process. The group indicated that an ad hoc committee seems unnecessary at this point.
- Chapter 105 ePermitting is live. PACD submitted names to DEP to create an auxiliary committee to discuss Chapter 102 ePermitting, and is supporting the districts' requests to offer a paper option for plain sect applicants and applicants without computer access. DEP will provide a draft proposal to a small group of districts who volunteered to review it before it goes out to the larger group. Brenda took feedback and comments from those present.

Legislative Update

Brenda strongly suggested that districts touch base with their legislators between November and January. She stressed that, while especially important for districts with new legislators, this is important for all districts. For all intents and purposes, the legislative session is now over. Once legislators arrive back in Harrisburg, they will be busy with a new legislative session and a flurry of meeting requests. Brenda encouraged districts to take advantage of the opportunity to meet with them locally before they get back to Harrisburg and are overwhelmed with meeting requests and legislative activity.

Brenda highlighted a number of bills from her written report, including:

- HB297 - Legislation that will exempt DGLVR projects from prevailing wage will likely be reintroduced during the new session.
- HB1932 - Brenda gave kudos to DEP, NRCS, and the SCC for helping us to convince Rep. Zimmerman that this legislation, requiring a 90 day review process, would make the issue worse, not better.
- HB2647 - This legislation allows for an NPDES waiver process for construction sites that result in a land disturbance of more than one, but less than five, acres.
- HB1959 - This legislation allows for third-party permit reviewers. The South West Region passed a motion opposing third-party reviewers.



It was moved by Bill McFadden and seconded by Chris Strohmaier to support the South West motion to oppose third-party permit reviewers. Motion carried.

Update from the PACD Engineering Assistance Program

Luke Vanasdalan and Jeff Sholly provided an update on projects they are working on and what kinds of projects they are available to help with, including Growing Greener projects.

Leadership Development Update

Leadership Development Coordinator Matt Miller provided a program update.

- The Management Summit took place September 5-6, 2018, with 69 attendees from 52 districts.
- Some of the topics from the Management Summit will continue during the 2019 Staff Conference, which will take place February 27-28 at the Genetti in Williamsport. Registration should open in mid-November. Maintaining a respectful workplace will be among the topics to be discussed.
- Matt is coordinating five training sessions for district directors in March 2018. There will be one each in the North West, the South West, South East, and North East, and one in a central location. Johan Berger stressed the importance of director development and asked the district managers and directors to provide Matt with recommendations and suggestions for useful director development topics.
- Funds are available for strategic planning grants. Please contact Matt if you are interested in taking advantage of these funds.
- Updating the program logo is underway.
- The program is hoping to offer a web-based platform in 2019 for online training.

District Information Sharing

Berks – Dean Druckenmiller reported that ME2 pipeline projects have been contracted, and on tire collection efforts through the West Nile Virus program.

Chester – Chris Strohmaier reported some staff turnover and the hiring of a new Ag Engineer. They are waiting on passage of the farm bill to begin Ag projects.

Delaware – Ed Magargee reported that the last MS4 report has been completed for this permit cycle for their flood resilience project and detailed permitting challenges for the USFW Tidal Wetland Restoration project.

Lehigh- – Bill McFadden reported a new 102 hire and a partnership with Allentown City and school district for a 3-year urban ag project.

Montgomery – Jessica Buck reported that with the hire of a part-time admin assistant they are now fully staffed. They remain busy with plan reviews, planning a watershed workshop aimed at EAC's, and have secured a riparian buffer grant.



Northampton – Sharon Pletchan reported they have a full time Ag position still open, they are securing approval for 2019 budget. Additionally, the County EWP bridge project is progressing well and they held an Act 48 teacher workshop with a spotted lanternfly component and were assisted by PSU Extension.

SCC Report

Executive Secretary Karl Brown provided highlights from his written report.

- MaryAnn Warren and Don Koontz were reappointed to the Commission.
- The 2018 DGLVR workshop held in September was a success.
- The SCC is migrating the DGLVR program to online GIS quarterly reporting.
- The SCC has performed 16 quality assurance and control visits and has six more to go.
- The conservation district director appointment process is on-going.
- REAP tax credits are available.
- Revised standard animal weights for the Nutrient and Odor Management Program are effective October 1, 2019.
- If emergency manure storage draw-down is needed due to the massive rains, please work with the SCC regional nutrient management coordinator.
- They are taking recommendations for the nutrient management manual update.
- PDA made grant funds available for districts in the spotted lanternfly quarantine zone. Completed agreements ranging from \$10,000 to \$150,000 are coming back to the SCC. The PDA website offers online training on identification and management. PDA has other grants available to reimburse landowners to cover contractor costs related to pest management.
- Will be undertaking a strategic planning/SWOT analysis and encourage input.

DEP Report

Karen Books provided handouts, including a general report, a spreadsheet of District State Agency Program Allocations and Fees Collected for FY 2017-18, The Local Role in Developing a Countywide Action Plan, and Clean Water Academy Courses.

- District audits are due at the end of the year.
- He reviewed a spreadsheet showing the annual funding for conservation districts from various sources.
- DEP and SCC staff are asking districts for feedback on submitting an annual budget spreadsheet to the SCC before the fiscal or calendar year.
- The DEP Bureau of Clean Water will be providing online training through new online learning system software. They are hoping to have the online learning system, which they are calling the Pennsylvania Clean Water Academy, online this fall. The system is being demonstrated at the regional Chapter 102 meetings. District staff are encouraged to contact Diane Wilson to review courses and/or offer suggestions for new course development.
- Bay districts have the opportunity to help develop Pennsylvania's Phase 3 WIP. DEP wants to work with county-based stakeholders to develop and submit a county-based action plan to meet local reduction goals. Fred provided an fact sheet with additional information.
- In order to be reimbursed, Bay districts must input BMP data into PracticeKeeper prior to submitting invoices for that work.



- DEP is extending the Ag Planning Reimbursement Program, which reimburses ag operators and landowners for consultant fees for creating manure management plans, nutrient management plans, and ag E&S plans.

NRCS Report

Dan Dostie provided highlights from his written report.

- He pointed out an article highlighting Pennsylvania's accomplishments of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative and charts covering preliminary NRCS program data for 2018 and other information.
- NRCS is under a continuing resolution, and is moving forward without a Farm Bill. They will continue taking applications for AMA, EQIP, RCPP-CSP, and RCPP-EQIP.
- They are streamlining planning and program delivery and will be rolling out the Conservation Application Ranking Tool (CART) in February 2019.
- He touched on highlights for 2019 RCPP projects,
- Dan introduced Charlie Hanner, who replaced Lorin Boggs in August and has a strong technical background in soils and wetlands. Charlie reported that he has worked in Delaware, Maryland, and Ohio. He has family in the area and looks forward to meeting and working with everyone.
- The Soil and Water Conservation Society conference is coming to Pittsburgh in 2019 with a theme of Bridging the Divide: Uniting Rural and Urban Landscapes for Conservation.

Adjournment

It was moved by Bill McFadden and seconded by Ted Veresink to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

