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PA Conservation Districts Testify on Erosion & Sedimentation Control Permitting

(Harrisburg, PA) –On Wednesday, May 1, 2019, conservation districts testified on the permit review process for erosion and sediment control (E&S) permits. The meeting was called by the PA House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. Many conservation districts review permits on behalf of the state and are seeking additional funding since they haven't had an increase for permit reviews in 15 years.

Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) Executive Director Brenda Shambaugh was first to speak. Shambaugh said conservation districts have a choice. They may choose to help with the erosion and sedimentation control permits or not. Shambaugh went on to explain the three levels of authority districts may fall under and what is involved.

Vincent McCollum, Assistant Manager and E&S staff supervisor at the Cumberland County Conservation District spoke next. McCollum works on these permits as part of his job. His testimony included data that shows how long it takes his conservation district to reviews permits. The average is half the time as the private sector.

Steps are being taken to be more even more efficient. The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is moving to an online application. This will guide applicants through the process making them more complete. Also, the DEP developed an online training tool for staff which includes this topic.

(more)



Finally, McCollum requested a 10% increase in the state budget to support conservation districts. There has not been an increase since the 2004-05 fiscal year.

Click here to read the full testimony: <https://tinyurl.com/E-SMay2019>.

For more information about the work of the state's 66 conservation districts, visit www.pacd.org. You can also follow PACD on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/15aWrKi>.

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The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD) is a non-profit organization whose guiding values include: Sustainable Resource Conservation; Integrity, Local; Education and Outreach; and Partnerships. PACD primarily serves as the collective voice for Pennsylvania's 66 county conservation districts. For more information about PACD, visit www.pacd.org.

