

**PACD North West Region Meeting
Mercer County Conservation District, Mercer, PA
March 27, 2019**

Call to Order

Region Director Cliff Lane welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

In attendance: Fred Fiscus, DEP; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Dan Dostie, NRCS; Karl Brown, SCC; Lance Bowes, Venango; Tracey Crawford, Crawford; Jo Ann McCready, Lawrence; John Green, DEP; Lori Boughton, DEP; Jay Russell, Mercer; Jennifer Medberry, Mercer; Thomas Schaffer, Mercer; Randi Tyler, PACD; Jeff Werner, NRCS; Cliff Lane, McKean; Shaun Wessel, Jefferson; Tom McClure, Erie; Donna Zofcin, Forest; Kerry Fetter, McKean; Jim Miller, DEP; Ian Harrel, Butler; Trudy Alexander, Clarion; Dave Rupert, Armstrong; Nicole Carkin, DEP; Doug Beri Jr., Indiana; Andrea Frustaci, Indiana.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on October 30 at the Erie County Conservation District Office.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were provided for review.

It was moved by JoAnn McCready and seconded by Donna Zofcin to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Motion carried.

PACD Report

Brenda Shambaugh provided the following report:

- Conservation District Week will be the week of May 5-11, 2019, with PA State Capitol visits on May 8, 2019. Cliff Lane recommended participating in the Capitol visits in Harrisburg. Conservation District Week materials will be coming out in several weeks.
- PACD sent DEP two response documents after asking for input from all conservation districts: the DEP Soil and E&S Control Manual for Agricultural Operations draft document and the Proposed DEP E&S, NPDES Administrative Manual (Section 6).
- Legislation HB 509, which would allow for Third Party Reviews, is still under consideration. Brenda will keep an eye on this bill as it could affect districts and reviews of permits.
- The PACD Executive Committee and Ad Hoc Building Committee decided not to continue our contract with Colliers Realty and enter into a new six month contract with Coldwell Banker for the sale of the Front Street Property. Things have been going much better.
- PACD would like all email for directors so they can be added to the Directors List Serve for the Front Page e-newsletter.



State Budget

Governor Tom Wolf presented his 2019-2020 budget proposal in February. There are several changes of significant interest to conservation districts. Brenda reviewed the budget line items for CDFAP and Nutrient Management Fund. She reported on the movement from DEP line item to the Environmental Stewardship Fund (ESF). Members present discussed the aspect of staying in the DEP line item vs the ESF.

It was moved by Dave Rupert and seconded by Lance Bowes to support the motion that Conservation District funding stay within the DEP budget. Motion carried.

It was moved by Ian Harrel and seconded by Doug Beri Jr. to approve the Executive Committee Budget Proposal. Motion carried.

PACD Report: PACD Dues

On January 31, 2019, the PACD Executive Council forwarded a proposal from the PACD Ways and Means Committee to the Spring PACD Region Meetings. The proposal recommends a schedule of dues increases over the next three years.

It was moved by Dave Rupert and seconded by Tom McClure to increase the dues by \$65 per district for fiscal year 2019-2020, \$55 per district for fiscal year 2020-2021, and \$45 per district for fiscal year 2021-2022, with the PACD Ways and Means Committee to review the dues on an annual basis. Motion carried.

Update from the PACD Engineering Assistance Program

Randi Tyler discussed her workload. She is currently working through 24 requests for assistance. She encouraged if you need assistance to try to contact her early in the process of projects.

District Information Sharing

Butler - Ian Harrel reported they have partnered with Allegheny County for contractor and engineer training and plan more partnerships for public training.

Venango - Lance Bowes reported on Venango CD Well Plugging Program, Chapter 105 E-Permitting, and Venango has a new Agricultural Conservation Technician, working with VARA for a Covered Manure Storage and finishing the RAWAPI Grant.

McKean - Kerry Fetter reported their strategic plan had been updated, 6 stream bank projects in the works, 7 acid mine projects, 26 education events planned, and one on one meetings planned with local legislators.

Forest - Donna Zofcin reported they are in full swing for Envirothon.

Indiana - Doug Beri Jr. reported that a new building and education complex will be completed by the end of the year. They have converted to quick books online and set up a new chart of accounts. They have 3 Sonoco grants for stream work, as well as a Growing Greener Grant on Yellow Creek for acid mine drainage.

Lawrence - Jo Ann McCready reported they hired a new program assistant. They are conducting a manure management grant workshop in conjunction with Centera, finishing up on Growing Greener Grants, and doing a rain barrel workshop at the Hoyt Institute of Fine Arts.

Mercer - Jay Russell reported the district received an award from PALMS for work with the Sandy Creek Watershed Grant. A Maple Syrup Open House was held. Preparations have begun for the Annual Pioneers in Conservation District Award Dinner. Dirt & Gravel Roads program has 2 large culvert projects in the works, all funding has been allocated.

Jefferson - Shaun Wessel reported that they are holding engineer workshops and prepping for Envirothon.

Erie - Tom McClure reported on the development of a nature center at their district that will be open by the end of April. Additionally, the district was represented at the Home & Garden Show and has been awarded a C2P2 Headwaters Grant.

Armstrong - Dave Rupert reported they would be having a Legislative breakfast, continuing work on the Campbell Run project and the Kimball Land reclamation site. As well a new Watershed Specialist had been hired.

SCC Report

Executive Secretary Karl Brown provided highlights from his written report.

- DGLVR Program 5-year Contract Closeout summary of where districts stood to date.
- A new Manure Management Planning for Youth Animal projects
- Pennsylvania Farm Bill Proposal
- Restore Pennsylvania Proposal
- SCC Strategic Planning Process Update
- Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Recognition Pilot Program
- Spotted Lantern Fly Update

DEP Report

Fred Fiscus 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.

- Envirothon Volunteers Needed
- CD Directors still needed for State Water Plan Committees
- UGWF spudded well trends and CCD requested CDFAP allocation scenarios
- Dates to remember

NRCS Report

Dan Dostie provided highlights from his written report.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.