

**PACD South West Region Meeting Minutes
Allegheny County Conservation District, Pittsburgh, PA
October 22, 2019**

Call to Order

South West Region Director John Thatcher welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

In Attendance: Fred Fiscus, DEP; Phil Wilson, PACD; John Dryzal, Cambria; Charles Duritsa, Westmoreland; Jon Burgess, Allegheny; Aileen Evan, DEP SWRO; Ron Rohall, Westmoreland; Jeff Werner, NRCS; John Thatcher, Allegheny; Mike Price, Beaver; Georgia Miller, Beaver; Richard Mowl, Jr. Westmoreland; Zenik Crispo, NRCS; Todd Thornburg, Westmoreland; Paul Irwin, Allegheny; Sean Lukacs, Allegheny; John Scott, Allegheny; Doug Beri, Indiana; Mark Critz, PDA; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Heather Manzo, Allegheny; Ruthann Omer, Allegheny.

New Region Director Election

It was moved by John Thatcher and seconded by Chuck Duritsa to nominate Ruthann Omer (Allegheny). Motion carried unanimously.

Date of Next Meeting

It was decided that the 2020 Spring Region Meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m. on March 31, 2020 at the Westmoreland Conservation District.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on March 28, 2019, were provided to attendees.

It was moved by Chuck Duritsa and seconded by Richard Mow to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2019, meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PACD Business and Report

Brenda Shambaugh provided a written report. The group discussed new motions for consideration.

Policy supporting legislation to raise Pennsylvania's clean fill standards to be in line with New Jersey, New York, and other neighboring states.

It was moved by Mike Price and seconded by Heather Manzo to support the policy supporting legislation to raise Pennsylvania's clean fill standards to be in line with New Jersey, New York, and other neighboring states. Motion carried unanimously.



Policy opposing legislation allowing for unreported discharges, spills or releases into waters of the Commonwealth that are not authorized by a DEP permit.

It was moved by Chuck Duritsa and seconded by Mike Price to support the policy opposing legislation allowing for unreported discharges, spills, or releases into waters of the Commonwealth that are not authorized by a DEP permit. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy opposing House Bill 414, which requires an E&S permit application to be approved within 20 days of receipt if it was submitted by a state-licensed engineer.

It was moved by Chuck Duritsa and seconded by Doug Beri to support the policy opposing HB 414. Motion carried unanimously.

PA General Assembly Update

Brenda reported that House Bills 1106 and 1107 are still alive and new bills have been introduced that would eliminate DEP from the permitting process and appoint commissions to approve or deny permits.

It was moved by Chuck Duritsa and seconded by Mike Price to oppose the expedited permitting bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Brenda presented information on the following items from her report:

- Clean Water Academy Ch. 102 Training
- Multifunction riparian buffer grant funding
- Updated Leadership Development website and information
- New salary survey
- PACD committee vacancies and participation in the directors listserv
- PACD Highlights project for legislators
- PA Game Commission wildlife kits
- Potential legislation
- Conservation district public service announcements
- PACD building update
- PACD Somerset technical office update

State Conservation Commission (SCC) Report

Johan Berger provided a report on the following items:

- Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road program updates
- Policy for removal of a district director for misfeasance, malfeasance, and other reasons
- Conservation district director appointment process
- Conservation Excellence Grants
- Revised REAP Guidelines and Application for FY 2019
- Nutrient Management Program Version 7 Planning Tool
- Nutrient Management Program Version 5 Nutrient Balance Sheet Planning Tool
- Update on spotted lanternfly

District Information Sharing

Each district shared information on district activities and other items of interest in their county.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Jeff Werner provided handouts and discussed the following items:

- Open sign-up for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- Funding for flood control efforts
- 2019 Farm Bill Programs Summary
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program

DEP Agency Report

Fred Fiscus provided handouts and discussed the following items:

- Personnel changes
- Chapter 102 Program Evaluations
- Due date for 2018 Financial Audit Report
- PA Chesapeake Bay Ag Planning Reimbursement Program
- Draft NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Small Construction Activities
- Dates to remember

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.