

**PACD Conservation Committee
Genetti Hotel, Williamsport PA
July 17, 2019**

Welcome and Roll Call

Chairman Josh Longmore welcomed everyone called the meeting to order at 11:17 a.m.

Members in attendance: Sherry Dumire, McKean; Dan Dunmire, Mifflin; Dave Stoner, Franklin; John Akers, Bedford; Rob Shannon, Centre; Josh Longmore, Luzerne; Piper Sherburne, Berks; Carl Goshorn, Cumberland; Jack Dehoff, York; Bill Kahler, Lycoming; Kelly McLaughlin, Allegheny; Mark Davidson, Lycoming; Daryl Miller, Bradford.

Guests in attendance: Jason Childs, Potter; Adam McClain, Adams; Katie Doster, Lebanon; Lance Bowes, Venango; Roger McFadden, Monroe; Kerry Fetter, McKean; Ray Gorman, Cambria; Nancy DiFiore, NRCS; Randall Leisure, Lebanon; Seleen Shives, Fulton; Erica Tomlinson, Tioga; Michele Long, Pike; Doug Beri, Indiana; Chuck Gould, Monroe; Sean Levan, Montour; Jeff Werner, NRCS; Joe Radley, Lycoming; Adam Schellhammer, Monroe; Cam Koons, Lycoming; Gretchen Schatschneider, Bucks; Eric Nyerges, Union; John Akers, Bedford.

Minutes of the January 30, 2019 Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were provided for review.

It was moved by Bill Kahler and seconded by Kelly McLaughlin to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2019, meeting. Motion carried.

Pennsylvania's Coal Refuse Energy and Reclamation Tax Credit

John Dryzal, Cambria County Conservation District Manager, asked for letters of support for HB 1481 and SB 618, which propose to extend and update Pennsylvania's coal refuse energy and reclamation tax credit. Cambria County has a strong need for a tax credit increase to assist with refuse disposal. Brenda confirmed that PACD already has policy to support this effort. A recently approved law increases the tax credit from \$10 million to \$20 million to subsidize coal waste-to-energy electricity generation plants and extends the tax credit from 17 years until 2036.

NACD Report

Eric Hansen with the National Association of Conservation Districts provided a report:

- Regarding the 2018 Farm Bill, there are a lot of wins for conservation and districts. There is no net loss in conservation funding, which is a big win. RCPP was reauthorized and will be updated to make it easier for applicants. In addition, there is new clarity about how to use cover crops with crop insurance.



- Eric reviewed a one-page handout on the NACD appropriations request and priorities, including programs and funding sources.
- Eric reviewed the NACD August Recess Guide to Grassroots Engagement, which helps members to help educate their legislators on a local level while they're on recess. NACD is encouraging everyone to connect with their legislators and educate them about districts.

Illegal Landfill Discussion

Adam Shellhammer, Monroe Conservation District Manager, reported on landfill issues in the state. He explained that Pennsylvania has lower standards for solid fill than some neighboring states, which has created a market for out-of-state fill, which often doesn't meet our standards. Monroe and other northeast counties are seeing significant contaminated fill coming in and an increase in illegal dump sites. This is also an issue for landowners, who don't realize they're taking contaminated fill, and then must pay for removal and remediation. Monroe is trying to educate landowners via local media, but Pennsylvania needs to look at how we can ensure that we're not taking contaminated fill that may create serious conservation issues in the future. Raising our standards to meet those of New Jersey and New York may shut down the market.

It was moved by Piper Sherburne and seconded by Sherry Dumire to support legislation to raise Pennsylvania's clean fill standards to be in line with New Jersey, New York, and other neighboring states. Motion carried.

Chapter 102 e-Permitting Update

Adam Shellhammer provided an update on Chapter 102 ePermitting. DEP has the form largely together and is working to incorporate minor and major amendments. The goal date for release is this November, but programming has not begun and integration with ICIS is not yet addressed. There are also issues to figure out related to GreenPort access and permissions for contractors.

Role of Nongovernmental Organizations and Conservation Districts

Venango Conservation District Manager Lance Bowes reported on concern over districts competing with non-governmental organizations for project funding. Discussion noted there may be ways to partner and work with these organizations. Eric Nyerges reported that Union regularly meets with the local non-governmental and other organizations like the Fish and Boat Commission, DEP, and DCNR to discuss issues and allocation of resources in the county.

PAG-01 Update

Brenda Shambaugh reported on behalf of the Ag Advisory Committee subcommittee to review the proposed PAG-01 update. She reported that the process is somewhat abbreviated but not as much so as indicated in early discussions, and the application process is still too much for an individual to complete on their own. The permit would apply to sites over one acre and less than five acres. They have asked DEP to use sample real-life scenarios to work through the application process.

Invasive Species Update

Piper Sherburne with Berks County Conservation District reported that the Spotted Lanternfly is now on the national invasive species list, which makes more funding available to fight its spread.

Adjournment

It was moved by Dave Stoner and seconded by John Akers to adjourn at 12:25 pm. Motion carried.