

**PACD South Central Region Meeting Minutes
Cumberland County Conservation District, Carlisle, PA
October 15, 2021**

Welcome, Introductions, and Roll Call

Region Director John Akers called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. with a quorum present.

Virtual and In-person Participants: Adam McClain, Adams; John Akers, Bedford; Jennifer Kovacs, Bedford; Donna Fisher, Blair; Carl Goshorn, Cumberland; Karen Books, DEP; Sam Worley, Franklin; David Stoner, Franklin; Seleen Shives, Fulton; Celina Seftas, Huntingdon; Chris Snyder, Juniata; Chris Thompson, Lancaster; Katie Doster, Lebanon; Randall Leisure, Lebanon; Trevor Weaver, Mifflin; Charlie Hanner, NRCS; Matt Miller, PACD; Lauren Brodbar, PACD; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Karl Brown, SCC; Kelly Stagen, PACD President; Jeff Sholly, PACD; Jeff Hill, York.

Region Director Election

It was moved by Chris Thompson and seconded by Donna Fisher to name Sonia Wasco as interim SC region director until a permanent replacement can be nominated. Motion carried.

Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held virtually or in person on April 8, 2022. If in person, it will be held at the Cumberland County Conservation District.

Meeting with DEP Deputy Secretary of Water Programs

The region will meet with Deputy Secretary Aneca Atkinson on November 8, 2021.

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were provided for review

It was moved by Sam Worley and seconded by Adam McClain to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2021, meeting. Motion carried.

PACD Business and Report:

Executive Director, Brenda Shambaugh provided highlights from her written report:

- Introduction of Lauren Brodbar, PACD TAG employee and called on Jeff Sholly for a TAG report.
- PACD going to electronic deposits, suggests districts submit the form and voided check.
- Communication: continue with front page newsletters and listserv, district managers asked to provide directors email addresses so they can be in the loop.



- Looking for directors and staff to fill open committee positions with only two meetings a year.
- Upcoming leadership development fall webinars open to all district personnel and directors.
- Strategic planning grants, deadline for application is November 19, 2021.
- Building for tomorrow provided thru SCC partnership leadership committee, Succession Management part one November 3 and part two November 17th from 12-1:30pm.
- Successful recent Bootcamp & level two training for 2022 they will be going back to April dates hopefully in person, registration will open in January.
- Introduction to conservation planning training will need to provide certificate of vaccination before attendance.
- NPS mini grant program has 60 projects underway totaling over \$100,000, new round going out in January 2022. This funding comes from EPA & DEP.
- For Education and outreach, Shannon has created a public service announcement on car maintenance for the fall. She also started a shared messaging program for social media. Monthly messages will be sent from the statewide office.
- There was a new round of mini grants for CREP, \$3000 to be used for education and outreach with an application deadline of November 12th, guidelines and app are on their website.
- The successful CREP partner training program, is now posted on the Clean Water Academy.
- Water Works at Work started this past spring, they held focus groups and interviews with farmers, information is being used to put together a marketing plan.
- 600 copies of landowner guides are available, if you would like copies contact Holly Miller or you can access it electronically on the CREP website.
- Three QuickBooks trainings can be found on the Clean Water Academy including Basic, Advanced and Payroll.
- Riparian buffer sub-grant program has 22 different grants, \$170,000 still available and extensions are available for those who received the grant but were unable to complete.
- Chapter 102/105 in person training Spring of 2022, all those trainings are on the CWA site. Technical training topics are being worked on. To get CWA access, contact Nick Yeagy.
- Three DEP trainers have been given the go ahead to do in person trainings, if you are interested, please fill out the form, contact Brenda, Nick, or DEP.
- Watershed Specialist training just completed an all virtual training for three ½ days, almost all Watershed Specialists participated, next year training will be in person.
- PACD winter meeting is scheduled to be in-person January 26 & 27 at the Wyndham, with a virtual option available.
- Late winter, early spring state wide virtual ag meeting should be the end of February.
- Managers asked for an Ad hoc committee made up of 3 Directors and 5 Managers, who asked for a meeting with the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of DEP for an entry in the CDFAP line on both budgets.
- PACD is putting together a month-by-month suggestion for all Districts to contact their legislatures to keep us in the forefront of their mind. Next week there will be a comprehensive plan being released for legislative outreach. Michelle from Pike, appreciate work on that initiative.
- House Bill 591, motion from PACD Legislative Committee “PACD opposed house bill 591 as currently written”

A motion was made by Randall Leisure to approve the motion made by the PACD Legislative Committee to oppose House Bill 591 as currently written. Donna Fisher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Third party reviewer legislation that aren't done by Conservation Districts passed their individual chamber but hasn't passed second chamber yet. Continuing to monitor status.
- Statewide expedited review program, PACD asked if legislation moves forward it be amended to allow districts already with that program continue their current program.
- Senate Bill 465 funding for BMP program, still in Senate Appropriations Committee.
- Senate Bill 832 BMP program came out of Committee to go to Senate Appropriations Committee. Amount of money for admin expenses was cut in half to 2%
- Senate Bill 545, definition of pollution and House Bill 1842, put together a schematic of what would be a reportable spill and what wouldn't.
- Federal stimulus dollars Senate bill 525 creates a third growing greener program and is heading to the Appropriations Committee.
- Senate Bill 251 Fertilizer, Dept of Ag supporting as currently written. Attempt to softly regulate in person lawn care fertilization usage and changes at the manufacturing level.

Regional Information Sharing

Each district participating in the meeting shared information on their activities for the last 6 months along with their priorities moving forward.

- *Adams* said they finished their CAP and that DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn will be participating in a tree planting event at Knouse Foods. The district is also going to present the PACD Maurice K. Goddard Award for Excellence in Environmental Recreation award to Secretary Dunn during the event.
- *Bedford* finalized their CAP and is working with Trout Unlimited and other groups to fix a failing septic system. They are hoping to receive CEG funding and EQIP funds.
- *Blair* submitted their CAP. They held their first fall festival at their environmental park and would like to hire a full-time Educator position.
- *Cumberland* has received \$1.5 million in CEG funds and have started 4 projects, one of which will be completed by the end of 2021. They have experienced flooding issues and are replacing culverts in the county. They held their 19th annual golf tournament, resulting in \$7,000 being provided to their student scholarship program.
- *Franklin* has been assessing solar farms in the county. Over 600,000 acres of solar farms have already been installed with more plans being reviewed. Many of these acres were previously farm ground. Additionally, numerous warehouses are under construction. Two CAP projects will be completed soon and the CCD along with a CEG project showcased by PDA Secretary Russell Redding.
- *Fulton* finished their CAP and is applying for funds for cover crop implementation, E & S and MM plan development, the installation of riparian buffers and manure storage construction. They are also working on a stream restoration project and hope to start next spring.
- *Huntingdon* is working on a draining project with 2 stream crossings. They finished their CAP and will be working on a heavy use area manure staking and storage. Greg Bonsall is

the new Envirothon Coordinator. The 2022 Envirothon will include a virtual oral component, and an in-person field component.

- *Juniata* held a week-long environment education camp for kids this summer. Forty kids attended on a nightly basis. Many partners assisting with the camp. Their fist solar farm plan has been submitted, but the CCD knows of at least 3 more that will be submitting plans soon. They had a recycling collection where over 1200 tires were collected, and 1200 pounds of electronics were also collected.
- *Lancaster* submitted their CAP. They are expecting about \$8 million, but less than \$100,000 is allocated for staff, which means the workload far exceeds the staff time available to develop and implement projects. The district would like to hire an Assistant Manager. In Lancaster about ½ of the streams are considered impaired, but water quality reports have allowed DEP to upgrade the status of some streams in the county.
- *Lebanon* submitted their CAP and is in the first year of implementation. They received CEG \$750,000 funds. They have a DGRLVR project to expand an undersized culvert pipe. They also held a field day at a local wetland preserve.
- *Mifflin* is working on a 319 watershed project.
- *York* announced that Bruce Holbrook stepped down as a director and 2 more directors will be stepping down soon which will cause a large generational gap on their board. Jen Risser retired as the YCCD Assistant Manager and Chris Dehoff will be taking that position. The district held it's annual Clay Shoot fund raiser with 115 participating raising \$14,000 for their scholarship fund. It was the largest Clay Shoot held thus far by the district.

PACD President Kelly Stagen praised the districts for their dedication and commitment to their counties.

PA State Conservation Commission Report

Executive Secretary Karl Brown provided highlights from his written report:

- The SCC recently hired a Dirt & Gravel person to help with that program.
- SCC staff is back in a hybrid model for 5 days in office and 5 days out, best method of contact is via phone or by email.
- The District Director appointments process is going on. He is encouraging districts to continue with a virtual option to all meetings.
- Just a reminder, the Sunshine Law bill enacted changes as of 8/31 by posting meeting agendas 24 hours prior at your site and to your website. Agenda must be specific to actions being taken and copies to be provided of the agenda to all in person attendees.
- The Nutrient Management Agreement is in the last year of the 5-year agreement and looking at the delegation agreements to be approved and have in place by next July.
- Dirt & Gravel Road program workgroup looking at stream crossings, some are complicated and expensive. Districts are asking for guidance and a more comprehensive manual, hopefully that will be reviewed and approved in 2022.
- AgriLink Investments, low interest loan program with 5.5 million in loans below market rate.
- Chesapeake Resilient Farms Initiative, bring \$737 million to the Chesapeake Bay states over 10 years through NRCS.
- Awards were given out at Ag Progress Days, including one to Nancy DiFiore, for Leadership Training Excellence.

PA Department of Environmental Protection Report

DEP's written report was submitted.

- Karen Books added to Karl's report on the Sunshine Act. She encourages all Districts to go to the Office of Open Records site to attend webinars on the Sunshine Act and the new agenda requirements.
- DEP grant funding updates to section 319 grants, Growing Greener Grant awards this winter, grant agreements have mostly been completed.
- Chesapeake and engineer agreements are still being worked on. You are unable to submit your Chesapeake Bay Technician or Engineer reporting into Greenport until those have been finalized and entered on their end.
- DEP encourages districts to maintain Attachment B forms in CWA, and continuously keep those updated.
- There has been a webinar posted to CWA on Exceptional Value Wetlands which was presented in July.
- DEP is still trying to fill Conservation District Field Rep positions and are working with HR getting the job postings ready. They also just recently started the process of getting approval to fill Karen's old position dealing with CDDFAP, manager/tech reporting, etc. this posting should happen soon as well.
- Karen mentioned that the last few 4th quarter watershed reimbursements are being processed and if you have not received your new signed contract, hold off submitting until you get the signed agreement with the new number.

Natural Resource Conservation Service

NRCS's written report was submitted.

- The front page of the report highlighted a success story in Cumberland County.
- Bootcamp 2 training was in person and the Introduction to Conservation training will be in person but there will be a virtual option.
- NRCS did a soil survey refresh update and added 11 new interpretations to the soil survey.
- They had a very successful contracting year with 634 contracts for just under 30 million dollars protecting 103,000 acres of land.
- NRCS is investing 50 million for racial justice and equity money to historically underserved groups. They are continuously hiring and back-filling positions.
- An executive order came out mandating vaccinations for all federal and their affiliates by the Nov 22 deadline. Discussion was held that any contractor including PACD TAG employees and district employees working within the PACD Umbrella agreement will be asked to provide proof of vaccination but there are still some unanswered questions. Updates will be provided as they are received.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.