PACD Education and Outreach Committee Meeting
Held Virtually
July 14, 2021 | 1:00-2:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Committee Chair Laura Anderson

Committee members in attendance: Laura Anderson (Chair), Bill Clouser, Jody Groshek, Emma Grubbs, Joan McCarty, Nate Pritchard, Emily Shosh, Kelly Stagen, Ted Veresink, Cathy Yeakel

Guests in attendance: Lance Bowes, Nathan Brophy, Nancy DiFiore, Susan Gallagher, Adrian Gregory, Shane Kleiner, Adam McClain, Willie Null, Dan Rhodes, Brenda Shambaugh, Shannon Wehinger (notetaker), Nick Yeagy

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. There was a quorum.

Welcome and Introductions (Chairperson)
- Chair Laura Anderson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of January 2021 Meeting Minutes
The minutes of the previous meeting on January 14, 2021 were provided to members for review.

It was moved by Cathy Yeakel and seconded by Ted Veresink to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on January 14, 2021. Motion carried.

PACD Updates
Shannon Wehinger spoke about the most recent PACD public service announcement on leaving a buffer. Shannon plans to create another one for fall. The topic is to be determined. Shannon also told the committee about the social media calendar and posts for districts to share that PACD started in June. The reception from districts has been positive.

Nick Yeagy spoke about what is new with the Clean Water Academy. Nick showed the Clean Water Academy on screen and showed the new digital training that is available.

There are several trainings available to the public that don't require a user to be logged in first. If any districts have training available to share let him know.

Story Maps Program
Emily Shosh spoke about how to use Story Maps to further outreach and education for districts. She provided a demonstration of the program's capabilities. Maps and geography can be used to connect students to a sense of place. To get started, go to https://storymaps.arcgis.com and create a public, free account. Emily shared several examples. Allegheny, Columbia, McKean, and Monroe also use StoryMaps.

Underwater Drone Aquatic Education
Dan Rhodes showed a video demonstrating Bradford County Conservation District's Chasing M2 underwater drone. This new technology is being used for education. Dan wanted to show the underwater world in backyard ponds and other shallow waters. The drone cost $2,300. With accessories the total cost was $5,000. Some are available for $700 but the battery only lasts 45 minutes to an hour. Dan showed the committee the drone and how it works. It even has a robotic arm that can be used to pick up trash for example. Videos taken by the drone are available at the district Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/1491153334444674/videos/209752187643012. Dan uses iMovie editing software to create educational videos.

PA Science Education Standards
PACD sent comments on the Education Standards to the PA Department of Education asking for the inclusion of specific standards for environment, ecology, and agriculture, allowing for the integration of meaningful natural resource educational experiences.

The comment period is closed. There is no update at this time.

New Business
The committee feels the meetings should continue to be held virtually a couple of weeks prior to the statewide meetings since participation is roughly double than when we held them in-person.

Adjourn
It was moved by Kelly Stagen and seconded by Cathy Yeakel to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.