

PACD Education and Outreach Committee Meeting
Held Virtually
July 6, 2023 | 10:00-11:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Committee Chair Laura Anderson

Committee Members in Attendance: Laura Anderson, Kristen Currier, Emma Grubbs, Emily Shosh, Jason Singer, Kelly Stagen, Ted Veresink, Cathy Yeakel

Guests in Attendance: Jennifer Fetter, Chris Grimsley, Jen Novak, Susan Parry, Brenda Shambaugh, Shannon Wehinger (notetaker), Doug Wolfgang

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. There was a quorum.

Welcome and Introductions (Chairperson)

Chair Laura Anderson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of January 2023 minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on January 12, 2023 were provided to members to review.

It was moved by Kelly Stagen and seconded by Ted Veresink to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on January 12, 2023. Motion carried.

Dive Deeper Summit & Update on ACAP Center

Jennifer Fetter, Penn State Extension Educator in Water Resources, spoke about the Dive Deeper Summit happening this fall and how conservation districts can benefit from participating. The conference is held every other year. The Dive Deeper Summit will be held on September 28, 2023 in Harrisburg. Registration is currently open. The summit includes keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and networking. This year, there will be a pre-conference reception and film screening on September 27. Act 48 credits are available for attending the summit. New for this year, there will be a water resource playground to try out new teaching tools and activities.



Jennifer also provided an update on the Center for Agriculture Conservation Assistance Training as part of the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) legislation. Training will be provided for staff new to working with the ag community. They will also have more advanced training on conservation practices. Plans are in place to hire an engineer to provide support to the program. Workforce development will also be a focus. Penn State is the home for the center. They are partnering with the State Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. There is a newsletter, *Currents*, that you can sign up for to find out the latest news.

DEP Environmental Education Grants

Kathleen Banski, DEP Environmental Education Program Coordinator, was unable to attend the meeting, but sent information to be shared with the committee. The deadline will be November 15, 2023 this year. Priority funding will be given to water and climate change projects. A webinar will be held in September.

PACD Updates

Brenda Shambaugh provided an update on the Ag Progress Days which is coming up on August 8-10, 2023. PACD will host a conservation district booth. Several district staff have stepped up and volunteered to staff the booth. There is one time slot remaining if anyone is available to fill that shift.

Brenda also reported that the House passed the state budget last night. It includes the same funding level as last year. The Senate will not reconvene during the summer so it is unknown when it will move forward.

PACD programs that include education/outreach include the Lawn Conversion Program. There will be a sub-grant program that has an educational component. A pilot PRISM program is also in progress for the northwestern part of the state. There is funding for education as part of this program. The Ag Plan Reimbursement Program is in progress and has 236 plans approved already.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjourn

It was moved by Emily Shosh and seconded by Kelly Stagen to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

