

**PACD South East Region Meeting Minutes
Henning's Market, Harleysville, PA
October 26, 2023**

Call to Order

Region Director Piper Sherburne welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Meeting participants: Dean Druckenmiller, Berks; Gretchen Schatschneider, Bucks; Chris Strohmaier, Chester; Ed Magargee, Delaware; Kevin Frederick, Lehigh; Holly Kaplan, Lehigh; Jessica Buck, Montgomery; Dion Campbell, Northampton; Piper Sherburne, PACD SE Region Director/Berks; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Jaci Kerstetter, DEP; Robert Page, DEP; Shannon Davis, DEP; Charles Hanner, NRCS, Heather Smeltz, NRCS, Doug Wolfgang, SCC; Dennis Beck, Cambria and PACD President; Wendy Roberts, Northampton.

Election of Region Director

Motion by Ed Magargee and seconded by Gretchen Schatschneider to elect Piper Sherburne as the PACD SE Region Director. Motion carried.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on March 28, 2024 at 9:30 AM at Henning's Market if available.

Approval of Minutes

Piper Sherburne called for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting as presented.

Motion by Ed Magargee and seconded by Gretchen Schatschneider to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2023, meeting as presented. Motion carried.

PACD Business and Report:

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

- PACD Legislative Committee brought a motion to respond to legislation to amend the Clean Streams Law. It was discussed the SW Region discussed removing some language as originally written.

Motion by Jessica Buck (Montgomery CCD) and seconded by Dion Campbell to support the language as written by the PACD Legislative Committee. Dion (Northampton CCD) 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

- Discussion on DEPs 102/105 conflict of interest memo



- PACD Winter Meeting–Discussion on future meetings either in-person or virtual. Consensus was mixed. One thought was to charge attendees more to attend virtually due to the high costs of offering that option. Also discussed were thoughts on promoting and increasing attendance.
- Legislative Update on HB1300–Removed language transferring money from PA Game Commission to Clean Streams Fund
- Stormwater Management hearing–Blair CCD provided testimony and sat on panel
- PACD producing lots of social media content for CDs
- AG Boot Camp–5 trainings in 2023 for conservation planning
- PACD Nonpoint Source pollution mini grant round is open
- PACD Ag Reimbursement program is very popular. Only ~\$30,000 remaining
- CREP Mini Grant \$80,000 remaining
- Two Riparian Buffer grants 1) \$18,000 remaining in the 100% funded multi functional grant 2) \$80,000 remaining in the 50/50 funded multi or conventional functioning buffer grant
- Lawn Conversion program–\$100,000 in the grant. Two projects submitted to date
- Invasive Species pilot PRISM program in NW Region. Funding for maintenance and Educ/Outreach. Goal to establish program and request dedicated funding
- Leadership Development, Matt Miller putting on programs in Nov/Dec for staff and directors More workshops in 2024
- Clean Water Academy is very popular. 103,000 courses enrolled and 34,000 completed
- 102 training for May 2024
- Watershed Specialist training was in-person and well attended

Regional Sharing Information

Bucks Co CD –

- Retirement of employee
- Hiring for grant admin position
- 319 Grant for AG project Manure storage and barnyard water management
- Using PACD mini grant hosting stormwater management workshop for homeowners

Chester Co CD

- 4 people retiring in 2024 and 2025
- Surpassed the 2024 NPDES budget, very busy year
- ACAP funds obligated

Montgomery Co CD

- ACAP 3 projects funded with more interest from AG Community
- Returning the Dirt & Gravel funds due to lack of interest. Keeping Low Volume Road funds
- Fully staffed w/ 6 E&S Techs, very busy
- Receiving interest in Lawn Conversion Program, preparing to conduct workshop

Northampton Co CD

- Moving toward being independent from County
- ACT 48 Teacher training – hosting a geology tour for teachers
- Intern and Engineer opening
- Returned the Dirt & Gravel funds due to lack of interest. Still doing Low Volume Rd
- Discussed County funding issues – ACAP being performed by AG Preservation Program

- Ted V is leaving the Board

Lehigh Co CD

- Participated in a warehouse development hearing
- Hosting first annual race/marathon fundraiser – 50 people signed up
- Filled the MS4 Coordinator position

Berks Co CD

- SWAG bus coming along, slower than expected but hope to be operation by end of the year
- New office space started construction, hope to be in by July 2024
- Need to fill 2 E&S positions
- Having stormwater issues from flooding in July
- Solar Farm construction is becoming more prevalent and bringing E&S issues with it.

Delaware Co CD

- Sustainability Plan has been adopted
- Entering into MOU with County. MOU is under consideration and hopefully approved soon
- Purchased software program for electronic submissions to CD. Will reduce paper copy needs
- Purchased 4 iPads for field Techs and field work
- Ed M is retiring at the end of February 2024. Will work part-time for 4 months after retirement

Agency Reports

SCC

- ACAP updates
- Push for funding ACAP after 2026
- New ACAP GIS going online Nov 9
- NM & Odor Management update, will be posting Director opening (Frank S took another position w/ PDA)
- DGLVR workshop was well attended
- REAP, Agri-Link, CEG Program, MEB funding available
- Sustainable AG Board being created for Soil Health Program using climate smart practices. \$25K in grants available for Chesapeake Bay counties only at this time
- Discussion re: Legislation to increase tree stock availability. Provide assistance to nurseries.

NRCS

- 174 EQIP projects in SE Region
- 10 RCPP contracts
- 68 CSP Contracts
- Chief Cosby came to PA
- Opened office in Philadelphia with 2 staff members at this time
- EWP work in high demand w/ 17 project sites in SE Region, 11 in Berks
- Heather Smeltz reported on watershed rehab work

PA DEP

- CDFAP being closed out

- PAG-12 CAFO Permit being published in PA Bulletin
- Fall trainings happening
- CD Watershed Specialist conference successful
- Env Education grants open from PADEP and EPA
- Winter Round Tables being planned and dates coming soon
- Staffing in SE Region, John retired, and new government liaison is Lisa Strobridge
- New Chief Counsel – Adam R Linda Mackey completing field orders and NOVs
- New COS & CACP template for level 3 CDs ready for use. Should use going forward
- New Ch 102 Penalty matrix tool now available.

Adjournment at 12:20 PM.