

**PACD North West Region Meeting
Armstrong Conservation District, Kittanning, PA
April 23, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

*Armstrong • Butler • Clarion • Crawford • Elk • Erie • Forest • Jefferson
Lawrence • McKean • Mercer • Venango • Warren*

Conservation district directors, associate directors, district staff, and partners are cordially invited to attend the PACD Region Meeting at **10:00 a.m.** on **Tuesday, April 23, 2024**, at the Armstrong Conservation District 124 Armsdale Road, Suite 1, Kittanning, PA 16201. You may RSVP for either in-person or remote attendance. Everyone who RSVPs will receive remote access information.

Please RSVP for either in-person or remote attendance, including your email address, no later than April 12, 2024, to Holly Laird at halaird@co.armstrong.pa.us. For those attending in person, a charge of **\$12.00** will cover lunch. Attendees may prepay by check or bring payment to the meeting. Checks should be made payable to Armstrong Conservation District and mailed to:

Armstrong Conservation District
124 Armsdale Road, Suite 1
Kittanning, PA 16201
Attn: Holly Laird

If you have any questions about the meeting, please feel free to contact me at 814.887.3210 or cdlane@mckeancountypa.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Lane

Clifford Lane
North West Region Director



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Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** – Cliff Lane, North West Region Director
- 2. Set Date for Next Meeting**
- 3. Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting**
- 4. PACD Business and Report** – Brenda Shambaugh, Executive Director
In addition to program and legislative updates, PACD will present one motion from the Ways and Means Committee and two potential policies from the PACD Legislative Committee for consideration. (See attachment for details.)
- 5. Regional Information Sharing**
Each district is asked to highlight three items.
- 6. Partner Reports**
 - PA Department of Agriculture
 - PA Department of Environmental Protection
 - PA State Conservation Commission
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 7. Adjournment and Lunch**



Items for Consideration 2024 Spring PACD Region Meetings

The following items were proposed by the PACD Ways and Means Committee during their meeting on January 18, 2024, and the PACD Legislative Committee during their meeting on January 17, 2024. These items will go to PACD Executive Council for a vote in July of 2024.

From the PACD Ways and Means Committee: Discussion on PACD Requesting a \$500 Donation from Conservation Districts

The PACD Ways and Means Committee moved to recommend discussion for the potential of requesting a \$500 donation from the conservation districts to PACD as a short-term solution to the financial shortfalls currently existing.

Proposed Policy from the PACD Legislative Committee: Increase to Growing Greener Plus Grants Program Administrative Expense Limitation

The 5% ceiling on administration expenses for Growing Greener grants, which seemed feasible at the time it was passed, currently does little to cover the actual administrative costs of implementing a Growing Greener grant. Reporting requirements have become increasingly time-consuming, costs have increased significantly, and restrictions on other funding sources have increased. PACD, conservation districts, and other organizations that rely on grant funding are struggling to cover administrative and overhead costs.

The Growing Green Plus Grants Program offered by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) funds projects aimed at reducing nonpoint source water pollution through local, watershed-based planning, restoration, and protection efforts. The PACD Legislative Committee supports legislation to increase the administrative expense limitation for the Growing Greener program to a minimum of 10% to better cover administrative expenses.

Proposed Policy from the PACD Legislative Committee: Mandatory Riparian Buffers

This policy is proposed in response to HB 1275, which would prohibit land development in riparian buffer areas within 100+ feet of certain waterways in order to mitigate flooding issues and water pollution. The proposed legislation includes an exemption for agriculture.

PACD recognizes the significant environmental benefit of riparian buffers along surface bodies of water. PACD supports education and incentives for voluntary installation of riparian buffers as opposed to legislation allowing administrative agencies of the Commonwealth and municipalities to require buffers along any body of water more restrictive than current law and regulation.

