

PACD Education and Outreach Committee Meeting
Held Virtually
June 27, 2024 | 10:00-11:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Committee Chair Laura Anderson

Committee Members in Attendance: Laura Anderson, Kristen Currier, Emma Grubbs, Joan McCarty, Jason Singer, Kelly Stagen, Cathy Yeakel

Guests in Attendance: Molly Burns, John Dryzal, Jenny Engle, Ray Gorman, Tara Burnham, Jen Novak, Brenda Shambaugh, Stephanie Sherman, Christopher Thompson, Stacey Widenhofer, Shannon Wehinger (notetaker)

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 July 6, 2023 minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on July 6, 2023 were provided to members to review. It was moved by Cathy Yeakel and seconded by Jason Singer to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on July 6, 2024. Motion carried.

Approval of January 11, 2024 minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on January 11, 2024 were provided to members to review. It was moved by Jason Singer and seconded by Kelly Stagen to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on January 11, 2024. Motion carried.

PACD Updates

PACD Director of Communications & Education gave an update on the Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Office ending. Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention mini-grants will now go through DEP through a block grant under the watershed specialist contract. The current 2024-25 round will be the last hosted by PACD.



For conservation district week, PACD implemented a new Instagram Photo Contest. Participation was minimal. Feedback is requested on ways to improve the program.

Ag Progress Days is August 13-15, 2024. All the morning volunteer shifts are filled. We are looking for two volunteers per afternoon timeslot for the three-day event. Volunteers staff the conservation district booth.

Chris Grimsley left PACD and we are currently in the process of filling the position. Chris was responsible for the Clean Water Academy. The position is going to be called “Water Resource Trainer.” District staff are still able to get accounts. There are nearly 1,000 unique courses currently in Clean Water Academy.

There are many upcoming programs through the Leadership Development Program. Matt Miller at PACD is always looking for speakers and training topics that are of interest to both district staff, directors, and associate directors. Visit paleadership.org for upcoming training.

PACD has several trainings planned for conservation districts in the next year. This includes Intro to Conservation Planning November 5-7, 2024. The application period will open in August. Agricultural Conservation Technical “Boot Camp” training will be held in Spring 2025. The Basic level will be March 24-27. Only one session is currently planned. Level II will be held twice – once April 7-11 and again (if needed) April 28-May 2, 2025. There are additional virtual training components for both.

There will be an Environmental Negotiations Training August 6, 2024 and is open to districts with Level III delegation and DEP enforcement personnel.

102/105 Basic Technical Training will take place in Spring 2025.

The Conservation District Watershed Specialist Training will be held virtually from October 1-3, 2024.

PACD is coordinating a Certified Professional in Erosion & Sediment Control or CPESC course on September 10. There is a discount for conservation district attendees. Contact Holly Miller in our office for that code. This is the only training of the ones listed that has a cost associated with it. The rest are free to conservation districts thanks to the grants we receive through our partners.

PACD’s Project and Event Specialist, Molly Burns, spoke about the upcoming Joint Annual Conference that PACD hosts with the State Conservation Commission (SCC). Molly is working with a group of district staff to revitalize the conference this year and



make it fun and engaging for attendees. Molly highlighted several activities that are part of the conference and encouraged everyone to attend.

PA Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE)

Stacey Widenhofer, Environmental Educator, Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators and Stephanie Sherman, Northeast Regional Director PAEE spoke to the committee about their organization's background, education certification, being a member, and professional development opportunities.

PAEE is holding a statewide conference from March 10-12, 2025, at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, PA. They are currently seeking presentations, sponsors, and exhibitors. The day before the conference starts, they will offer field trips. Scholarships are available to attend.

PAEE has an events calendar and job board. Districts are encouraged to share opportunities at www.paeenet.net or email Stacey at stacey@paeenet.net.

The PAEE EE Certification program recognizes the qualifications that are essential to success in the field of environmental education. It can take a few months up to 3 years to complete. PAEE is in the process of being accredited by North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). It costs \$100 to enroll in the certification program.

eeCouses are available online for professional development.

PAEE hosts a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, Accessibility (DEIJA) Learning Community.

The website hosts "Find EE Near Me."

To connect with PAEE, look for their regional Facebook pages or visit paeenet.net.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

It was moved by Kelly Stagen and seconded by Jason Singer to adjourn the meting. Motion carried.

