

**PACD Legislative Committee
Videoconference Minutes
July 1, 2024**

Welcome and Roll Call

Chair Donna Fisher welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Committee members present: Donna Fisher, Blair; Chuck Duritsa, Westmoreland/PACD; Thomas Herbert, Luzerne; Larry Kehl, Berks; Kelly Stagen, Pike; Mary Burris, Lawrence; Adam McClain, Adams; Christian Strohmaier, Chester

Guests present: Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Molly Burns, PACD; John Dryzal, Cambria; Willie Null, Clearfield; Tara Burnham, Pike; Dean Druckenmiller, Berks

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were provided for review.

It was moved by Chuck Duritsa and seconded by Mary Burris to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on January 17, 2024. Motion carried.

State Legislative Update

Brenda Shambaugh provided an update on the state budget (fiscal code), dedicated funding for the Clean Streams Fund and district activities leading up to passage of the state budget.

- According to the legislature, the state budget is expected by the end of this week. We expect this budget to include steady funding for the conservation districts.
- Brenda and conservation district representatives met with the Chief of Staff for the Speaker of the House and several other legislators.
- The Clean Streams Fund is not expected to receive dedicated funding until next year, as that is when the issue will reach maximum urgency.
- There are some interests pushing for a transportation increase, and we are supporting an increase for the Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads program.

Update on PACD Legislative Committee Motions

Brenda Shambaugh provided an update on mandatory riparian buffer legislation and increasing the administrative allowance for Growing Greener approved projects.

- *Motion to Increase Growing Greener Plus Grants Program Administrative Expense Limitation:* This proposed policy was supported by all six regions during the spring region meetings. If the PACD Executive Council approves this motion, we will seek support for the increase from other organizations.



- *Policy on Riparian Buffers*: Four regions supported this policy. The north east region voted to oppose the policy, and the north central chose not to consider it. The membership will have the opportunity to discuss or amend this policy during the council meeting.

Potential Policy on Riparian Buffers and Fencing

The committee, having proposed two similar policies regarding riparian buffers and fencing, requested a more general motion that will cover broader situations.

It was moved by Chris Strohmaier and seconded by Chuck Duritsa to propose the following policy:

PACD recognizes the significant environmental benefit of protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources through Best Management Practices (BMPs). PACD supports education and incentives for voluntary installation of BMPs.

Motion carried.

Invasive Species

Berks District Manager Dean Druckenmiller shared some information from Berks Director Piper Sherburne regarding invasive species. Brenda Shambaugh provided an update on the PACD North West PRISM Pilot Program and noted that outcomes from the pilot program will provide guidance for PACD to decide how to move forward.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.