

PACD North East Region Meeting
The Lands at Hillside Farms Education Center, Shavertown, PA
October 4, 2024

Welcome and Introductions

Region Director Tom Herbert welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. He invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

In attendance in person and virtually: Chris Storm, Carbon; Jerry Stiles, Lackawanna; Tom Herbert, Luzerne and PACD; Jack Hanish, Luzerne; Jay Wilkes, Luzerne; Josh Longmore, Luzerne; Keith George, Luzerne; Kristina Heaney, Monroe; Craig Todd, Monroe; Kelly Stagen, Pike and PACD; Jenna St. Clair, Schuylkill; Jennifer Ramey, Susquehanna; William Shay, Susquehanna; Jamie Knecht, Wayne; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Dennis Beck, PACD; Amanda Coleman, NRCS; Heather Smeltz, NRCS; Doug Wolfgang, SCC; Patrick McCarthy, SCC; Carl DeLuca, DEP; Karen Books, DEP; Janet Creegan, DEP; Cait Skibiel, DEP; Nick Lylo, DCNR; Julian Maza, DCNR.

Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2025, at the Schuylkill Conservation District, Pottsville, PA, at 10:00 AM.

Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were provided to those in attendance.

It was moved by Kelly Stagen and seconded by Jenna St. Clair to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

PACD Business and Report:

Executive Director Brenda Shambaugh reviewed her written report, including the need for a district director to serve as PACD Treasurer and the need for directors or associate directors to fill committee vacancies.

She then presented a proposed policy from the PACD Legislative Committee. The committee proposed the following policy at their July 1, 2024 meeting:

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.



Brenda explained that each PACD region must consider the policy before it can be presented at the January 2025 Executive Council meeting.

It was moved by Jack Hanish and seconded by Craig Todd to amend the language of the proposed policy to read as follows:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Jack Hanish and seconded by Jerry Stiles to approve the motion from the Legislative Committee as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

PACD President Dennis Beck thanked the state and federal agencies for their support and funding for PACD and districts.

Regional Information Sharing

A representative from each district present provided a verbal update and shared items of general interest to the regional members.

Partner Reports

- *Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Report*
Nick Lylo, District Forester, Pinchot Forest District, thanked PACD for the invitation to the regional meeting and gave a review of Bureau of Forestry activities and programs throughout the region. He also introduced Service Forester Julian Maza who offered his availability and willingness to partner with districts on forestry matters.
- *Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Report*
Carl DeLuca reviewed highlights from DEP's written report and provided updates on several items including a new grant viewer webpage, CDFAP and Watershed Specialist quarterly reports, and the SPEED Program. Janet Creegan and Cait Skibiell expressed their availability to provide support to districts.
- *PA State Conservation Commission Report*
Doug Wolfgang reviewed highlights from the SCC's written report, and Patrick McCarthy provided ACAP program updates.
- *USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report*
Heather Smeltz and Amanda Coleman reviewed highlights from NRCS's written report.

Adjournment

It was moved by Jenna St. Clair and seconded by Jack Hanish to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 PM