

**PACD Legislative Committee  
Videoconference Minutes  
June 30, 2025**

**Welcome and Roll Call**

Chair Donna Fisher welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

*Committee members in attendance:* Christopher Thompson, Lancaster; Emil Bove, Westmoreland; Erica Tomlinson, Tioga; Jason Childs, Potter; Jay Russell, Mercer; Michael Hubler, Northumberland; Sandy Thompson, McKean; Seleen Shives, Fulton.

*Guests and staff in attendance:* Amy Brown, PACD; Dean Druckenmiller, Berks; Holly Miller, PACD; Molly Burns, PACD.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Donna Fisher presented the minutes of the previous meeting on January 16, 2025.

*It was moved by Chuck Duritsa and seconded by Kelly Stagen to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on January 16, 2025. Motion carried.*

**Legislative Update**

President and CEO of Versant Strategies MeeCee Baker introduced herself and discussed the staff at Versant Strategies. She provided information on past legislation they were successful in passing and what Versant can do for the conservation districts, including sharing grant opportunities, particularly at the state level. So far, Versant has met with the majority and minority ag, energy, and environment chairs in the House and Senate, and has begun meeting with partners to let them know Versant is representing the conservation districts.

MeeCee provided a budget update, noting she reached out to her contacts and the conservation district line-items are currently safe at their current level, but Versant will continue to keep an eye on things. Work will begin on the next budget cycle this fall. PACD will develop our budget ask in September, provide the ask to Versant by October 1, and she will take it to PDA for support prior to moving it forward.

Versant is also tracking several bills for the districts. These include Senate Bill 404, which would amend the Chapter 105 Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, to provide for county conservation district stream reconstruction emergency permit authorizations. She stressed the importance of grassroots, local legislative relationships, noting that districts generally have a solid relationship with their legislators, which is excellent.



**Conservation District Legislative Priorities Workgroup**

Chair Donna Fisher confirmed membership for the workgroup. Donna Fisher, Chris Thompson, Kelly Stagen, Thomas Herbert, Doug Beri, and Adam McClain have volunteered to participate and will keep the PA State Conservation Commission up to date on activities. After the PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference, PACD will set up a workgroup meeting.

*It was moved by Doug Beri and seconded by Tom Herbert to support PACD's decision to contract with Versant Strategies for conservation district legislative activities. Motion carried.*

**Adjournment**

*It was moved by Tom Herbert and seconded by Kelly Stagen to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.*