

**PACD Ways and Means Committee
Video Conference Minutes
January 22, 2025**

Welcome and Roll Call

Chairwoman Sonia Wasco called the meeting to order with a quorum at 10:01 a.m.

Committee members in attendance: Sonia Wasco, PACD Treasurer/Lancaster; Emil Bove, Westmoreland; Dean Druckenmiller, Berks; Steve Taglang, Cumberland; John Dryzal, Cambria; Lisette Lane, Venango, Nathan Brophy, NCCD, Cliff Lane, McKean, Tom McClure, Erie.

Guests in attendance: Amy Brown, PACD; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD, Roxanne Dohner, PACD; Dennis Beck, PACD, Abby Frey, Columbia, Daniel Hausman, PACD, Thomas Herbert, PACD, Christopher Thompson, Lancaster, Jeff Werner, USDA/NRCS, Dave Stoner, Franklin, Yuri Plowden, NRCS.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the July 11, 2024, meeting were provided for review.

It was moved by Cliff Lane and seconded by Tom McClure to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2024; meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Review of FY 2024-2025 mid-year Financial Reports

Several items were highlighted by Sonia and Amy who provided comments and/or explanations.

- The Operating Account has caught up with the receiving of long-awaited reimbursements.
- We moved money from FNB Capital Fund to PA Invest due to higher interest rates.
- Assets are decreasing as we use Working Capital received from the grants. After June 2025, we will only have 1 Growing Greener Grant open.
- Regarding Liabilities – differences are due to employee paid insurance portions which we cannot predict/control.
- The TAG grant is now 50 NRCS/50 GG which changes the increase in Admin costs.
- Certified Planner and NACD Employee expenses are also trending higher.
- PACD Audit on the budget will be dispersed to appropriate grants when audit is completed.
- Bank Charges – Interest received offsets some of these costs. We will investigate lowering minimum balances on accounts.
- Grant Budget
 - Admin fees and PACD wages are higher.
 - E&S equipment – leftover monies carry forward every year. Any expenses for E&S equipment are fully reimbursable.
 - Lawn Conversion received \$40,000 in Working Capital and we received more than \$200,000 to move forward.
 - JAC expenses – This is a 2-year budget, and we have profited a small amount from JAC 2024.
 - APRP SCC Reimbursement is \$1,000,000.00. So far, we have 55 new plans which consist of 7,500 acres, 1/3 farmland preservation.
- Sonia will file the Financial Report subject to Audit.



Discuss the Responsibilities of the Ways and Means Committee

- Sonia opened the floor for comments for new sources or new grant opportunities with no response.
- The board will discuss the Dues Proposal in the next meeting.

Review and discuss PACD's current dues structure and make recommendations for the next 3 years.

PACD is struggling to meet demands under the current dues structure. Recommendations were requested.

- Communication between Districts and PACD should be increased.
- 3-year plan to help Districts plan financially.
- Seek more District involvement with PACD to bring understanding of need for increased dues.
- Explanation of PACD time verses Grant Admin time is shown on staff timesheets.
- Discussion of an across-the-board percentage increase versus a numerical increase which would need to be presented and approved by the Executive Council.
- Discussion to show the districts how PACD benefits them.
- District Dues structure is discussed at Spring Region Meetings and final vote will take place in July.

Current Grant Reimbursements

- Several grants will be ending but looking into other grant opportunities. The exiting grants should not have a huge effect on the budget.
 - CREP has declined but Districts have received Funding through DEP for Education and Outreach if requested.

Other Items

- JAC – Discussion regarding the need for subcommittees for sponsorship. Molly has a committee set up for this.
- Discussion for more interests needed for Districts attendance.

Adjournment

It was moved by Emil Bove and seconded by Steve Taglang to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 am.