

PACD Education and Outreach Committee Meeting
Held Virtually
January 13, 2026 | 10:00-11:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Committee Chair Laura Anderson

Committee Members in Attendance: Laura Anderson, Douglas Brown, Kristen Currier, Dominic Degidio, Laura Hopek, Jen Novak, Barb Peace, Jeannie Shay

Guests in Attendance: Molly Bengs, Emil Bove, Amy Brown, Tara Burnham, Jennifer Engle, Emily Granville, Susan Gallagher, Shannon Wehinger (notetaker)

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. There was a quorum.

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Laura Anderson called the meeting to order and welcomed two new committee members.

Approval of June 24, 2025 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on June 24, 2025, were provided to members to review.

It was moved by Dominic Degidio and seconded by Barb Peace to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on June 24, 2025. Motion carried.

PACD Updates



The PACD Director of Communications & Education, Shannon Wehinger, gave an update on the PA Farm Show. The Conservation District table was once again co-located with the USDA area.

PACD completed the DEP Environmental Education grant application to hold an Environmental Educators Training for Conservation Districts in the fall, and is awaiting the spring announcement to see if it was funded.

The PACD Strategic Plan is set to be approved by the board at the end of the month. One of the objectives that this committee could help with is improving the outreach and scope of Conservation District Week, which is held the week of Earth Day each year.

Also, don't miss out on two upcoming Leadership Development webinars on February 18, 2026, From Message to Media: Amplifying Impact Through Local Outreach and February 25, 2026, Smarter Social Media: Campaigns, Curation, and AI-Driven Content. Both will be held Noon-1:00 p.m. They are free. The link to register is on the PACD website under Events.

Clean Water Academy Updates

The PACD Water Resource Trainer, Molly Bengs, gave an update on the Clean Water Academy (CWA). Molly showed attendees the updated orientation materials for those that are new to using the CWA. Under Find Learning, you can filter the topics. There is also a search feature. Molly also announced the Conservation District Accomplishments for 2025. There were 40,323 course completions, and of those, 4,219 were conservation district staff.

New Business

There was no new business.



Adjourn

It was moved by Dominic Degidio and seconded by Jen Novak to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

