

**PACD Executive Council Meeting
Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion, PA
July 16, 2025**

Call to Order

1st Vice President Emil Bove welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Roll Call

Secretary & Acting Treasurer Sonia Wasco called the roll. Thirty-six districts answered the roll, which constituted a quorum.

Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

Secretary & Acting Treasurer Sonia Wasco presented the minutes of the January 30, 2025, meeting.

It was moved by Doug Beri (Indiana) and seconded by Jeff Pflug (Beaver) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Motion carried.

President's Report

1st Vice President Emil Bove thanked the conference sponsors, the conference planning committee, Theresa Rohall and Dawn Lamuth with Go Laurel Highlands, Westmoreland for hosting, Tammy Marsh for organizing and running the basket raffle, Rob Cronauer for organizing the solar tour, and everyone in attendance for being part of the conference. He noted that PACD President Dennis Beck could not attend, but PACD would recognize his contributions at the local level with a gavel plaque.

Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Amy Brown provided highlights from the PACD Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, then invited Versant Strategies Chief Operating Officer Derek Snyder to speak. Derek provided a brief overview of the Versant staff and what they bring to the table. He also discussed the services Versant is providing to the membership, including individual district support in meeting with legislators or arranging events. Any conservation district can contact Molly Burns or Amy Brown at PACD with any legislative questions or concerns.

Treasurer's Report

Secretary & Acting Treasurer Sonia Wasco presented the report, called for questions, and joined the PACD Executive Board in addressing questions submitted by members after the July Ways & Means Committee meeting.

It was moved by Blaine Smith (Blair) and seconded by Donna Zofcin (Forest) to accept the Treasurer's report and file it for audit. Motion carried.



NACD Director's Report

NACD Director Ron Rohall and NACD board member Cliff Lane provided updates from the national level, including NACD's 2025 Summer Conservation Forum & Tours Hosted with Wisconsin Land + Water in Milwaukee, WI, July 25-29, 2025 and the 2025 Northeast Region Meeting, hosted by New York on September 21-24, 2025 in Syracuse.

New Business

Reports, motions, and resolutions from PACD Committees:

PACD Conservation Committee

Committee Chair Carl Goshorn provided the following report:

- The PACD Conservation Committee met with a quorum on June 18, 2025.
- PACD Acting Executive Director Amy Brown reported the PA Fish and Boat Commission reached out to PACD in April about helping with Trout in the Classroom. The program has grown to be in 500 classrooms in the next program year, and they need help to keep up. The committee offered to help, and more information will be provided as it becomes available.
- The PACD Ad Hoc Committee has been working with PACD to negotiate PennDOT paying E&S fees to conservation districts. PennDOT is open to paying \$150.00 per disturbed acre if PACD is willing to facilitate the process as the go-between. We hope to increase this amount, and they have agreed to review the amount every five years.
- PACD Program Manager Holly Miller provided an update on PACD conservation programs that can help districts work with landowners to develop agricultural plans, convert lawn to native habitat, and install and maintain riparian buffers.
- Time was set aside for the committee to discuss and identify key conservation issues to focus on moving forward. Discussion included invasive species and how funding uncertainty on the federal level is affecting conservation programs.
- The committee had no motions to bring before the council.

PACD District Employees Committee

Committee Member Kate Wehler provided the following report on behalf of the committee:

- The PACD District Employees Committee met without a quorum on June 20, 2025.
- PACD Program Manager Holly Miller shared information on training opportunities coordinated by PACD.
- Erie County Conservation District Manager Tom McClure shared information about the Conservation District Workforce Development Project by the Great Lakes Commission.
- Indiana County Conservation District Executive Director Doug Beri explained the new apprenticeship program they are working on with the PA State Conservation Commission.
- The committee discussed district staff needs, including:
 - The need to streamline and shorten the process to obtain nutrient management certification. The committee plans to meet with partners to determine how this can be accomplished.
 - The importance of revisiting the salary survey periodically to provide conservation districts with current information.
 - Where to find templates, such as template employee handbooks and policy.
- The committee had no motions to bring before the council.

PACD Education & Outreach Committee

Committee member Kelly Stagen reported that the PACD Education and Outreach Committee met on June 24, 2025 with a quorum.

- The committee received an update on the conservation district booth at the PA State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) Conference. The event was held in May in Hershey. The conservation district booth would not be possible without district volunteers.
- The next conservation district booth will be at Ag Progress Days in August in Rock Springs.
- The committee also heard from PACD Water Resource Trainer Kelly Davidson. Kelly gave an update on the Clean Water Academy, including courses that were recently completed, courses in progress, and the lunch-and-learn series, which is new this year.
- Amidea Daniel from the PA Fish and Boat Commission provided information on how to be involved in Trout in the Classroom, which is active in 62 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. Twenty-one conservation districts are currently partnering with 46 classrooms across the state. More information on partnering with classroom teachers is available at www.patrouinthe classroom.org.
- The committee had no motions to bring before the council.

PACD Legislative Committee

Committee member Carl Goshorn provided the following report on behalf of the committee:

- The PACD Legislative Committee met with a quorum on June 30, 2025.
- The committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting.
- President and CEO of Versant Strategies MeeCee Baker introduced herself and provided information about Versant Strategies. Versant will be monitoring legislation for the districts, working with PACD to move forward our annual budget request and other legislative priorities, and sharing grant opportunities for PACD and the 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.
- 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.
- Membership has been confirmed for a Legislative Priority Workgroup that will be initiated following the Joint Annual Conference.
- The committee had no motions to bring before the council.

PACD Operations Committee

Committee Chair Emil Bove reported the PACD Operations Committee met with a quorum on July 16, 2025. The committee approved the minutes of the January meeting and had no motions to bring before Council.

PACD Ways and Means Committee

Committee Chair Sonia Wasco provided the following report on behalf of the committee:

- The PACD Ways and Means Committee met on July 10, 2025 with a quorum.
- The committee approved the minutes of the January 22, 2025 meeting.
- The group reviewed a summary of financials for FY 2024/2025 with discussion on each income and expense line.

- The committee reviewed the PACD draft budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.
- Discussed the 3-year dues structure with no recommendations for the Council. No recommendations were made.
- The Ways and Means Committee had no motions to bring before the council.

Proposed Three-year PACD Dues Schedule

Secretary & Acting Treasurer Sonia Wasco presented a proposed three-year dues schedule that incorporated a \$300 increase for FY 2025-26, a \$200 increase for FY 2026-27, and a \$200 increase for FY 2027-28. It was noted that the dues can be revisited by the PACD Ways & Means Committee annually.

It was moved by Doug Beri (Indiana) and seconded by Jennifer Dann (Washington) to approve the proposed three-year PACD dues schedule as presented. Motion carried.

Proposed PACD Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Secretary & Acting Treasurer Sonia Wasco presented a balanced budget for FY 2025-2026. She explained this budget does not incorporate rehiring an executive director. If the board does decide to rehire that position, the budget will need to be amended.

It was moved by Donna Zofcin (Forest) and Doug Beri (Indiana) to approve the PACD Budget for FY 2025-2026 as presented. Motion carried.

Election of Officers

PACD Nominating Committee Chair Emil Bove presented the slate of officers and called for nominations from the floor. No nominations were presented.

It was moved by Donna Zofcin (Forest) and seconded by Ray Gorman (Cambria) to approve the slate of officers as presented:

- *President: Emil Bove, Westmoreland*
- *1st Vice President: Barb Peace, Indiana*
- *2nd Vice President: Tom Herbert, Luzerne*
- *Treasurer: Vincent Pennoni, Delaware*
- *Secretary: Sonia Wasco, Lancaster*

Motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.