

**PACD Conservation Committee Meeting
DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel, Lancaster PA
July 17, 2018**

Welcome and Roll Call

Chairman Adam Cotchen welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with a quorum at 3:05 p.m.

Committee members in attendance: Bill Kahler, Lycoming; Dave Stoner, Franklin; John Akers, Bedford; Kelly McLaughlin, Allegheny; Carl Goshorn, Cumberland; Sherry Dumire, McKean; Piper Sherburne, Berks; Rob Shannon, Centre; Adam Cotchen, Indiana; Mark Davidson, Lycoming; Jack Dehoff, York.

Guests in attendance: Adam McClain, Adams; Lynn Stauffer, Northampton; Chris Ingulli, Pike; Michele Long, Pike; Adam Schellhammer, Monroe; Susan Marquart, NRCS; Mike Hubler, Northumberland; Susan Moon, Somerset; Dean Druckenmiller, Berks; Richard Weinstein, Berks; Nancy Corbin, Columbia; Nancy DiFiore, NRCS; Seleen Shives, Fulton; Susan Kubo, NACD; Dennis Beck, Cambria; Kerry Fetter, McKean; Tom McClure, Erie; Dennis Beck, Cambria.

Minutes of the January 17, 2018 Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were provided for review.

It was moved by Bill Kahler and seconded by John Akers to approve the minutes of January 17, 2018, as presented. Motion carried.

General Legislative Update

Pennsylvania State Budget

The state budget was passed and the Governor signed it. Funding for conservation districts was flat-lined, meaning the same amount as the last fiscal year. It was reported that there will be a number of new legislators after the November election, and suggested that conservation districts make a strong effort to meet the new House/Senate members.

House Bill 2154

HB 2154, introduced by Rep. Marty Causer, would change regulations for small conventional wells. This legislation amends the Conventional Oil and Gas Act. Rep. Causer contends that the legislation removes the threat of unreasonable regulations, only affects conventional wells, and will reduce methane emissions by establishing a bounty program for plugging abandoned wells. In contrast, the Wolf administration and several other organizations contend the legislation weakens existing law by relaxing requirements. The bill passed the House and is in the Senate



for consideration. PACD already has policy recognizing that water resources are critical to the future of Pennsylvania, and that surface and groundwater need to be quantitatively and qualitatively protected from human abuse.

House Bill 1959

HB 1959, introduced by Rep. Greg Rothman, requires all state agencies that administer permits to conduct an initial review of permit decisions and permit decision delays. It requires all state agencies to post, on their website, a complete list of all permits managed by the agency. The legislation also allows for third-party professionals to administer the program and says that payments to a third-party professional shall consist of the remittance of any fees collected by the agency from applicants whose applications are subject to permit decision delay.

The committee discussed HB 1959. Brenda will take the legislation to the next round of region meetings to see if any of the regions would like to make a motion in favor or opposition.

HB 1932 – Representative Zimmerman

Brenda reported that PACD and our partners were able to convince Rep. Zimmerman not to move forward with this legislation.

NACD Update

NACD Northeast Region Representative and Policy Specialist Eric Hansen provided the committee with a federal legislative update. He began with some general legislative information and moved on to discuss the work NACD is doing with regard to appropriations and NACD's recommendations for the 2018 Farm Bill, which are:

- Maintaining conservation program funding
- Keeping EQIP and CSP functionally separate
- Opposing some proposed reforms to the RCPP program
- Repealing SAM/DUNS requirements
- Supporting watershed programs
- Increase CRP acreage responsibility with flexibility for grazing
- Continue current conservation compliance requirements

Adjournment

It was moved by Kelly McLaughlin and seconded by Piper Sherburne to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.