

**PACD South West Region Meeting  
Westmoreland Conservation District, Greensburg, PA  
October 4, 2018**

**Welcome and Introductions**

PACD 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Mike Price called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. South West Region Director John Thatcher was unable to attend.

*In attendance:* Dave Rupert, Armstrong; Mike Price, Beaver; Jim Shaner, Beaver; Dennis Beck, Cambria; John Dryzal, Cambria; Fred Fiscus, DEP; Lisa Snider, Greene; Andrea Frustaci, Indiana; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Phil Wilson, PACD; Matt Miller, PACD; Danielle Kalp, PACD; Phil Gardner, PACD; Johan Berger, SCC; Len Lichvar, Somerset; Mari Meyers, Somerset; Meade Meyers, Somerset; Susan Kubo, NRCS; Greg Phillips, Westmoreland; Ron Rohall, Westmoreland; Zenik Crespo, NRCS.

**Next Meeting Date**

Set date for next PACD region meeting for March 28, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

**Approval of Minutes**

*Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting by Jim Shaner and second by Dave Rupert. Passed unanimously.*

**PACD Report**

Executive Director Brenda Shambaugh provided the following report:

- Discussed the challenges of working with new legislators, and advised educating legislators and constituents on what conservation districts are and what they do.
- PACD will be providing a new marketing toolbox for conservation districts.
- Discussed the NE Region Managers proposal for funding for a regionwide educational program highlighting storm damage.
- Discussed the PACD Budget and a possible increase in dues. No motion was needed at this time, however the region agreed that a \$100 per year increase over the next three years is reasonable.
- PACD has purchased new condo and will be moving in November.
- Discussed whether the ad hoc committee for PACD building sale and purchase was still needed.
- Discussed Chapter 102 and 105 ePermitting implementation.
- DCNR still has money left for Riparian Buffers and is considering giving \$500,000 next year to the program if it can be spent. Mainly looking for multi-purpose buffers (walnut trees, blueberry bushes etc...)

## **PACD Legislative and Conservation Committees**

The group discussed merging the PACD Legislative and Conservation Committees, which would require a bylaws change.

*Motion to support merging the PACD Legislative and Conservation Committees into a single committee was made by Jim Shaner and seconded by Dave Rupert. Motion carried.*

### **Legislative Update**

Brenda advised members to prepare for a budget fight, provided updates on the current legislative session, and gave updates on House Bills 297, 1932, 1959, 2647, and 2653.

*Motion to oppose third party permit reviewers, such as those proposed in House Bill 1959, made by Ron Rohall, with a second by Jim Shaner. Motion passed unanimously.*

### **Regional Info Sharing**

*Westmoreland* – Asked for increase of \$30,000 in funding. Lost the Green Information Technologist, looking to hire someone that can do AutoCAD and monitoring. Added a 2<sup>nd</sup> Americorps employee. Applied for ME money (Pipeline Fine).

*Greene* – Working on 93 total Ag projects for the county and looking for opportunities to work with new farmers as well. Spent a lot of emergency money due to rain causing many landslides. Looking to hire two new Conservation Technicians.

*Indiana* – Added a new Watershed Specialist position. Lost the district manager and is looking to hire someone to fill the position. Board approved a long-term lease for moving to the Indiana County Technical Center. ICCD Partnership was given a large grant for “Local Food, Local Places” Program.

*Cambria* – Discussed the upcoming Legislative Breakfast including the removal of Refuse Piles and site visits to show progress. Completed two new Stream Restoration Projects. Staying busy with DGLVR Projects.

*Armstrong* – Formed partnership with BAMR to aid in permitting to build two new AMD Passive Treatment Systems. Friday Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> will be the Fall Elected Officials Tours from 10 AM to 2 PM. Will be involved with a Kayak Trip along with Westmoreland County on the Kiski River on Wednesday October 10<sup>th</sup>. Mobile Display visited 16 counties with over 7500 people visiting. Applied for \$1.5 Million for DGLVR program, \$800,000 Approved.

*Somerset* – DGLVR Project at Somerset Lake has been completed on Wood Duck Rd. Recently installed Fish Habitat Structures at the Quemahoning Dam. DCED Grant Application was denied for the remaining Oven Run Treatment Systems, looking for different sources of funding to complete them. October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting at 10:00 AM to discuss initiatives to secure money for O&M of AMD systems. Received award for work done at the Flight 93 Treatment Systems reducing the AMD pollution flowing into Lambert’s Run.

*Beaver* – Working on ACT 13 Stream Restoration Project. Had a recent Natural Gas Pipeline Explosion. Right-To-Know requests have consumed two employees for over two weeks. Still working with DEP on legal issues.

*Allegheny* – John Burgess will be presenting at a large conference. Planning a Contractor Workshop for some time in February.

## **Partner Agency Reports**

### DEP Report

Fred Fiscus provided the following report:

- Discussed County Conservation District Program Allocations and Fees worksheet
- Discussed Conservation District Audit Due date
- Discussed District Annual Budgeting Spreadsheet
- Gave update on PA Clean Water Academy
- Discussed Chesapeake Bay Phase 3 WIP Countywide Action Plans
- Discussed Chesapeake Bay Program Special Projects and PracticeKeeper
- Gave update on Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Planning Reimbursement Program
- Gave updated list of Fall 2018 Dates to Remember

### SCC Report

Johan Berger provided the following report:

- Discussed DGLVR Program events and dates
- Discussed Conservation District Director Appointment ongoing processes
- Discussed REAP Tax Credits Available
- Discussed the 2016 CD Audit statements
- Discussed Nutrient & Odor Management Program changes and updates
- Gave Spotted Lanternfly Update
- Planning on a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threat (SWOT) survey for priorities over the next several years

### USDA NRCS Report

Susan Kubo and Zenik Crespo provided the following report:

- Discussed Fall/ Winter Training opportunities and dates
- Discussed Applications for Disaster Assistance
- Discussed two new 2019 RCPP Projects
- Discussed SW Region FY 2018 Contracts

## **Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 pm made by Ron Rohall with second by Jim Shaner.  
Motion carried.*