

**PACD South West Region Meeting
Westmoreland Conservation District, Greensburg, PA
March 28, 2019**

*Allegheny • Armstrong • Beaver • Cambria • Fayette • Greene • Indiana
Somerset • Washington • Westmoreland*

On behalf of the PACD South West Region, you are cordially invited to attend the PACD South West Region Meeting at **10:00 a.m.** on **Thursday, March 28, 2019**, at the Westmoreland Conservation District, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA 15601.

A charge of \$18.00 will cover lunch. **Please RSVP no later than Thursday, March 21, 2019**, to Sandy Dzendzel at 724.837.5271 or sandy@wcdpa.com. Attendees may prepay by check or bring payment to the meeting. Checks should be made payable to the Westmoreland Conservation District and mailed to:

Westmoreland Conservation District
J. Roy Houston Conservation Center
218 Donohoe Rd.
Greensburg, PA 15601

If you have any questions about the meeting, feel free to contact me at 412.370.1333 or jhthatcher@verizon.net. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

John H. Thatcher

John H. Thatcher
South West Region Director



**PACD South West Region Meeting
Westmoreland Conservation District, Greensburg, PA
March 28, 2019**

AGENDA

- 10:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions – John Thatcher, Region Director
- 10:10 a.m. Set Date for Next Meeting
- 10:15 a.m. Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting
- 10:20 a.m. PACD Business and Report – Brenda Shambaugh, Executive Director
Topics will include the State Budget and Environmental Stewardship Fund, Conservation District Week, third party reviewer legislation, a motion from the PACD Ways and Means Committee concerning a potential dues increase, a PACD building update, and an update to the PACD Directors Listserve.
- 11:20 a.m. Regional Information Sharing
Each district is asked to highlight three items.
- Noon Working Lunch and Partner Reports
- PA State Conservation Commission
 - PA Department of Environmental Protection
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 1:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourns



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

Welcome and Introductions

PACD 1st 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 2nd 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. 26th 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 10th. 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 5th 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.*

WHAT PACD DOES FOR YOU!

Membership Services

PACD provides numerous services to its member conservation districts including:

- Representing conservation districts on state/federal committees and organizations, including NACD;
- Developing and maintaining effective working relationships with partner agencies and organizations;
- Maintaining a comprehensive government relations program, including a statewide legislative presence and assistance with local legislative outreach activities to show a strong collective voice that brings local issues to the state and national level;
- Hosting various annual awards programs to recognize outstanding individuals in the conservation district community, farmers for their actions to create cleaner water, legislators, foresters, and partners;
- Managing electronic communication tools such as 11 listserves to facilitate information sharing and membership networking, a weekly e-newsletter and monthly association activity report, a website packed with information to assist the membership including a jobs page where district positions are posted, and a social media presence to promote the work of PA's conservation districts;
- Maintaining a website on nonpoint source pollution prevention funding sources
- Maintaining the statewide CREP website;
- Exhibiting at statewide events including the PA Farm Show, Ag Progress Days, the DCNR Buffer Summit, and the PSATS convention; and
- Coordinating regional and statewide Association meetings.

Educational Assistance and Training

Through its educational grants, PACD offers a number of educational opportunities for conservation district staff annually, such as:

- The Annual Watershed Specialist Meeting;
- Six Chapter 102 Fall Regional Sessions;
- Two 102/105 Technical Training sessions;
- Two Agricultural Conservation Technical "Boot Camp" trainings;



- An Introduction to Conservation Planning course;
- The Chesapeake Bay Conservation District and PA Agency Staff meeting;
- A Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) course and exam; and
- CREP training workshops for agency and district employees.

Mini- and Sub-Grant Programs

Annually, PACD offers project funding exclusively for conservation districts through grant-funded mini-grant programs.

- The Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Mini-grant Program;
- The Manure Management Manual and Chapter 102 Compliance Workshops Mini-grant Program;
- The CREP Outreach Mini-grant Program; and
- Multi-functional Riparian Forested Buffer Sub-Grant Program for Conservation Districts.

Engineering Assistance Program

Through state and federal funding, PACD provides engineering assistance to conservation districts, watershed organizations, and other entities to implement watershed-related projects.

Recent Success Stories

- PACD annually defends line-item funding in the state budget;
- PACD annually hosts Conservation District Week activities in the state capitol and locally;
- PACD annually coordinates “Conservation District Highlights” pages to distribute to members of the PA General Assembly, the Governor’s Office, and related agencies;
- PACD distributes template letters for districts to utilize as they correspond with legislators and agency personnel;
- PACD entered into an Umbrella Agreement with NRCS to assist districts who have agreements with the agency;
- PACD developed an agreement with the Law Office of Andrew Shaw to provide legal services at a significantly reduced cost;
- PACD secured a State Conservation Commission agreement to hire a full-time Leadership Development Coordinator, expanding the leadership development program; and
- PACD developed a Project Promotion Toolkit to assist conservation districts in promoting district activities.

