

**PACD North Central Region Meeting
Clinton County Conservation District, Mill Hall, PA
October 3, 2019**

Welcome and Introductions

Region Director Rob Shannon welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

In attendance: Nathan Brophy, PACD; Mark Davidson, Lycoming; Bill Kahler, Lycoming; Karen Books, DEP; Holly Miller, Sullivan; Ed Zinser, Sullivan; Barbara Warburton, Sullivan; Andy Wodehouse, PACD; Larry Butler, Clinton; Judy Becker, Northumberland; Mike Hubler, Northumberland; Daryl Miller, Bradford; Cathy Yeakel, Bradford; Robert Sweitzer, Centre; Rob Shannon, Centre/PACD; Jason Childs, Potter; Jaci Kerstetter, DEP; Karl Brown, SCC; Barry Frantz, NRCS; Nancy DiFiore, NRCS; Eric Nyerges, Union; Steve Putt, DEP; Nancy Corbin, Columbia.

Set Date for Next Meeting

The group discussed dates for the next region meeting. The next meeting will take place at the Clinton County Conservation District on March 26, 2020.

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were provided to those in attendance.

It was moved by Ed Zinser and seconded by Eric Nyerges to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

PACD Report

Brenda reviewed the 2019 Fall Meeting Report.

PA Clean Fill Standards

Brenda reported the PACD Conservation Committee passed a motion stating, "PACD Supports legislation to raise Pennsylvania's clean fill standards to be in line with New Jersey, New York, and other neighboring states." Daryl Miller suggested that we wait for DEP to determine standards for this.

It was moved by Bill Kahler and seconded by Eric Nyerges to support the proposed position regarding clean fill standards for Pennsylvania. Motion carried with 7 for and 1 against.

Legislation for Unreported Discharges

Brenda reported that the PACD Legislative Committee passed a motion stating, "PACD opposes legislation allowing for unreported discharges, spills or releases into the Waters of the Commonwealth that are not authorized by a DEP permit."



It was moved by Mike Hubler and seconded by Ed Zinser to support the proposed policy opposing legislation allowing for unreported discharges, spills or releases into the Waters of the Commonwealth. Motion carried.

House Bill 414

Brenda presented information on House Bill 414, which requires an E&S permit application submitted by a state licensed engineer be approved within 20 days of receipt. She reported that the PACD NE Region made a motion to oppose HB 414. It was discussed and decided to support their view.

It was moved by Bill Kahler and seconded by Jason Childs to oppose House Bill 414. Motion carried.

PA General Assembly Update

Brenda reviewed environmental and agricultural issues House and Senate members are discussing during the fall session. The *Energize PA* proposal introduced by the House includes HB 1106, which requires DEP approval of any permit regulating air quality, waste, erosion and sedimentation, and dam safety and encroachments within 30 days without regard to public review of permits. It also includes HB 1107, which creates a 5-member commission named by the Senate, House, and Governor to administer the permitting and plan approval process, eliminating DEP permit approval. PACD sent an opposition to the proposal to House members.

The PACD North Central Region has proposed PACD put together an internal committee to develop recommendations to improve the permitting process.

Clean Water Academy

Brenda reviewed courses available through the online training system.

Multi-Function Riparian Buffer Grant

Brenda reported that PACD still has approximately \$550,000 available to districts for multi-function riparian buffer projects.

Leadership Development

Brenda reported that the Leadership Development website has been updated. The 2020 Staff Conference will be held February 12-13 at Wyndham Garden State College and registration will open in early November. Brenda also reminded the membership that the deadline for Letters of Intent for participation in the Strategic Planning Grants program for 2020 is November 20.

Salary Study

Brenda requested that each conservation district take the time to complete the PACD District Employees Committee salary survey.

PACD Committee Membership and Directors Listserve

PACD is seeking individuals to fill several vacancies on the PACD committees.

PACD Highlights Summary

Brenda reported that all districts will be asked to complete a Districts Highlight page and provide to PACD for distribution to government officials by December 1m, 2019.

Game Commission Wildlife Kit

Brenda shared that the Game Commission is interested in partnering with each conservation district to host a wildlife kit which includes furs, skulls, scat, tracks and a binder containing a key to all the items and facts about the mammals. If you are interested, please let Brenda know and you can pick them up at the PACD/SCC Winter Meeting in January.

Building Update

PACD is under contract with a local developer to purchase the old building located in downtown Harrisburg. Settlement is planned on or before December 31, 2019.

Public Service Announcements

Brenda reported that PACD is working on Public Service Announcements to send to districts and media for use. The plan is to have one each for spring, summer, fall and winter.

DEP Field Representatives

PACD will be sending Aneca Atkinson a list of reasons why field reps are important to a conservation district. Brenda is collecting comments.

TAG Projects

PACD Engineering Assistance Program (TAG) employees discussed some of their projects which include a lot of beef and poultry operations.

Regional Information Sharing

Each district highlighted three items to share with the membership.

SCC Report

Karl Brown provided the following report:

- He commended districts for helping close out the 5-year DGLVR funding agreement quickly.
- He discussed the *Policy for Removal of District Director for Misfeasance, Malfeasance and Other Reasons* and stated the approved policy will be distributed to conservation districts and chief clerks soon.
- He explained that the annual process for nominating and selecting conservation district directors for 2020 is underway.
- The Conservation Excellence Grants program was reviewed and discussed.
- He reviewed details of requirements and funding for the FY 2019 Revised REAP Guidelines and Application Packet.
- Nutrient Management Planning tools were discussed.
- He provided an update on the spotted lanternfly.
- He reviewed the PA Farm Bill Overview of Conservation Provisions

DEP Report

Karen Books reviewed the Fall 2019 PACD Region Meeting Talking Points, including:

- New Planning and Conservation Division Chief – Kristina Peacock
- New Chesapeake Bay Program Office Director – Jill Whitcomb
- Chapter 102 Program Evaluations
- 2018 Annual Audits
- PA Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Planning Reimbursement Program Extension
- Draft NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Small Construction Activities (PAG-01)
- 2019 Meeting Dates

Jaci Kerstetter reminded everyone about the roundtable meeting coming up November 19 at the Northcentral Regional Office (NCRO) and noted a few topics that will be discussed. Steve Putt introduced himself and provided an update on staffing at NCRO Waterways and Wetlands.

NRCS Report

- Nancy DiFiore reviewed her handout and highlighted project accomplishments.
- Barry discussed the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and reminded everyone that applications are due by December 3.
- Brenda notified the membership that PACD is planning to submit an RCPP proposal to provide grants to districts for soil health projects.

Adjournment

It was moved by Daryl Miller and seconded by Eric Nyerges to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.