

**PACD North West Region Meeting
Erie County Conservation District, Erie, PA
October 30, 2019**

Call to Order

North West Region Director Cliff Lane welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

In attendance: Shawn Wessell, Jefferson; Donna Zofcin, Forest; Brian McNamara, Erie; Tom McFarland, Jefferson; Karl Brown, SCC; John Hallenburg, Erie; Fred Fiscus, DEP; Sandy Thompson, McKean; Jay Russell, Mercer; Kerry Fetter, McKean; Tom McClure, Erie; Cliff Lane, McKean; Tom Decker, DEP; Lori Boughton, DEP; John Green, DEP; Tracey Crawford, Crawford; Jim Miller, DEP; Bonita Herman, Master Gardeners Erie; Sue Meyer, Erie; Danielle Kalp, PACD; Lance Bowes, Venango; John Kolojejohick, Venango; Mark Critz, PDA; Tom Schaffer, Mercer; Amanda Shreve, Erie; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Denise Coleman, NRCS; Jeff Werner, NRCS; Zenik Crispo, NRCS; Bob Bahl, Erie; Dave Rupert, Armstrong; Doug Beri, Indiana; Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie; Ian Harrell, Butler.

Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper and District Manager Tom McClure gave welcoming remarks.

Region Director Nomination

Brenda Shambaugh opened the floor for nominations for the PACD NW Region Director position.

It was moved by Kerry Fetter and seconded by Lance Bowes to nominate Cliff Lane as Regional Director. Motion carried.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 22, 2020, in Venango County - location to be determined.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on March 27, 2019, were provided for review.

It was moved by Tom McClure and seconded by Donna Zofcin to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Motion carried.

PACD Report

Brenda introduced Danielle Kalp P.E., the new PACD Conservation Engineer on staff in the Clarion office.



Motions for Consideration

- PACD Conservation Committee proposed this policy during its July 17, 2019 meeting:

“PACD supports legislation to raise PA Clean Fill standards to be in line with New Jersey, New York and other neighboring states.”

It was moved by Lance Bowes to approve the policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Tom McClure. Motion carried.

- PACD Legislative Committee proposed this policy during its July 17, 2019 meeting:

“PACD opposes legislation allowing for unreported discharges, spills or release into water of the Commonwealth that are not authorized by a DEP Permit.”

It was moved by Donna Zofcin and seconded by Ian Harrel to support the policy to oppose legislation. Motion carried.

- PACD NE Region passed a motion opposing House Bill 414 during its meeting on April 5, 2019:

“PACD opposes legislation such as House Bill 414 (2019-2020 Session) that reduces the allowable time frame for permit approvals or disapprovals, regardless of the entity submitting the permit application.”

It was moved by Lance Bowes and seconded by Kerry Fetter to support the motion to oppose legislation. Motion carried.

PA General Assembly Update – Brenda gave an update on Governor Wolf’s “Restore PA Infrastructure” Plan, the Senate Republican’s response plan and the House’s package called, “Energize PA”.

Clean Water Academy – Brenda discussed the progress of the Clean Water Academy and reminded Districts to utilize this program.

Riparian Buffer – PACD is still accepting sub-grant applications to implement multi-functional riparian buffers. More information is available on the PACD website regarding the available \$550,000 for the program.

Leadership Development – Matt Miller, Leadership Development Coordinator is currently finalizing details for the February 12-13, 2020 Staff Conference after a successful 2019 Manager’s Summit. Matt is also planning six Regional Director training workshops. The deadline for the Letters of Intent for participation in the Strategic Planning Grant program is November 20, 2019.

Salary Study – Sandy Thompson from the PACD Employees Committee reported that 39 Districts have completed a salary study survey update. Results of the survey will be distributed very soon.

PACD Committee Membership and Director's Listserve – There are vacancies on several PACD committees. Six director openings and one staff opening. Please contact PACD to serve on a committee. Directors can sign up for the Directors Listserve by providing district staff or PACD their email address.

PACD Highlights Summary – Districts are encouraged to complete their Highlights page and send it to PACD immediately, so the project can be distributed to legislators in a timely manner.

Game Commission Wildlife Kit – Game Commission contacted PACD – Urban Wildlife Kits are available free of charge. Contact Shannon by December 6, 2019 if interested.

Potential Legislation – Brenda reported on Senate Bill 891, Titled: In administrative provisions, establishing the Advanced Permit Review Program and the Advanced Permit Review Program Fund; and making an editorial change. This bill would expedite reviews on all Chapter 102/Chapter 105 permits. The NW Region was asked to consider having PACD proposing an amendment to the legislations, keeping the conservation districts involved in the review and permitting process for expedited reviews, or oppose the legislation altogether.

It was moved by Jay Russell and seconded by Tracey Crawford for PACD to negotiate and create a productive amendment for SB 891, involving conservation districts in the review and permitting process for expedited reviews. Motion carried.

Conservation District Public Services Announcements – PSA Templates will be created for Districts to provide to their media distribution lists. Seasonal topics could be addressed, but PACD would consider other ideas that come from districts.

Building Update –The sale of the old building will hopefully be settled by December 31, 2019.

Regional Information Sharing

All District Managers attending the meeting shared highlights with the group.

NRCS Report

Denise Coleman and Jeff Werner highlighted the following topics from the PA NRCS Conservation Update:

- Available funds for RCPP programing
- Protecting forest land with conservation easements
- USDA is currently seeking public comment on Conservation Practice Standards
- The completion of a wetland easement in Crawford County
- A new ranking tool has been developed and will be utilized.

DEP Report

Fred Fiscus provided highlights from the talking points handout, including personnel updates, Chapter 102 Program Evaluations, 2018 Annual Financial Audits due December 31, 2019, NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Small Construction Activities (PAG-01) update, and dates to remember.

Lori Boughton introduced Tom Decker, Community Relations Coordinator, and offered his assistance to districts to assist with positive publicity platforms. There is no update on the Growing Greener Grant announcement. Lonestar Ticks have been discovered at Presque Isle State Park. DEP NWRO would like to organize a concentrated training for the new E&S techs in the region.

Jim Miller, DEP Regional Director thanked the Districts for their hard work.

PDA Report

Mark Critz, PDA Western Regional Director provided a brief overview of his position and programing available for agriculture in PA.

SCC Report

Karl Brown thanked the districts for closing out the DGLVR allocations from the last five-year agreement. Highlights from the written report included:

- Policy for District Director removal for Misfeasance, Malfeasance or other reasons
- Conservation district director appointment process
- Conservation Excellence Grants (CEG) for agricultural BMP implementation
- Revised REAP Guidelines and Application packet
- Nutrient Management Program Planning Tool 7.0
- Nutrient Balance Sheet Planning Tool 5.0
- Spotted Lanternfly update

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Testing this feature