

**PACD South Central Region Meeting  
Cumberland County Conservation District  
October 15, 2019**

**Call to Order**

South Central Region Director John Akers welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

*In attendance:* Donna Fisher, Blair; Adam McClain, Adams; Karl Brown, SCC; Sonia Wasco, Lancaster; Bruce Holbrook, York; Mark Kimmel, York; Travis Sherman, York; Denise Coleman, NRCS; Charlie Hanner, NRCS; Katie Doster, Lebanon; Sally Tengeres, Perry; Eric Naguski, Dauphin; Celina Seftas, Huntingdon; Jennifer Kovacs, Bedford; Seleen Shives, Fulton; Dave Stoner, Franklin; Sam Worley, Franklin; Glenn Kimmel, Cumberland; Carl Goshorn, Cumberland; John Akers, Bedford; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Karen Books, DEP; Kristina Peacock-Jones, DEP; Karl Brown, SCC; Ana Turosky, PACD.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held March 24, 2020 starting at 10 a.m. at the Cumberland County Conservation District Office.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were provided for review.

*Motion by Bruce Holbrook and seconded by Adam McClain to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Consideration of Regional Director Nomination**

Brenda expressed that John Ackers is willing to serve another term as Regional Director for the PACD SC Region. *Motion by Bruce Holbrook to close nominations, second by Fisher. Motion carried unanimously.*

**PACD Report** – Brenda Shambaugh provided highlights from her written report.

- PACD Policy Actions – the following proposed policies were discussed:

*Motion by Bruce Holbrook, second by Glenn Kimmel to support the policy from the Conservation Committee as written “PACD supports legislation to raise Pennsylvania’s*



*clean fill standards to be in line with New Jersey, New York, and other neighboring states.”*  
*Motion carried unanimously.*

***Motion*** by Mark Kimmel, second by Eric Naguski to support the policy from the Legislative Committee as written “PACD opposes legislation allowing for unreported discharges, spills or release into waters of the Commonwealth that are not authorized by a DEP permit.”  
*Motion carried unanimously.*

***Motion*** by Bruce Holbrook, second by Seleen Shives to support the policy from the Spring 2019 NE Region Meeting as written “PACD oppose legislation such as House Bill 414 (2019-2020 Session) that reduces the allowable timeframe for permit approvals or disapprovals, regardless of the entity submitting the permit application.” *Motion carried unanimously.*

- PACD RCPP Grant – PACD is considering an RCPP application related to Soil Health. Seeking matching funds (1:1) from districts, perhaps with equipment rental programs. Funding could go to PACD and then to districts to farmers for a menu of BMP’s.
- PACD General Assembly Update – Back in session in October. Discussed Restore PA packages, Energize PA Package that would require DEP approval of any permits within 30 days without regard for public review, and legislation creating a five-member commission to administer permitting and plan approvals currently conducted by DEP. Current PACD policies may be broad enough to oppose legislation. SC Region had no objection to the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to draft alternative legislation to be proactive.
- Clean Water Academy – PACD working to develop courses and have hired a staff person (funded by DEP) to create modules.
- Riparian Buffer Grant – PACD still has approximately \$550,000 available for riparian buffer establishment at 100% of the cost. First come first serve.
- Leadership Development – Continues to be funded through the SCC. Staff Conference planned for February 12 and 13. Regional Director training dates provided.
- Salary Survey – District Employees Committee is updating the district salary survey.
- PACD Committee Membership – Vacancies were highlighted and encouraged participation. Associate directors are eligible for committee appointments.
- PACD Highlights Summary – Districts encouraged to submit individual highlights pages.
- Game Commission Wildlife Kits – Being offered to districts to host free of charge. Request to Shannon by December 6 and will be distributed at the Winter Meeting. District requested to log usage off the kit and keep them maintained.
- Conservation District PSA’s – To be developed in 2020 and looking to target homeowners.
- Building Update – Under contract with settlement on or before 12/31/19.

### **Regional District Information Sharing**

Conservation district reports were shared by the following counties in attendance: Lancaster, Lebanon, Blair, Adams, Dauphin, Bedford, Fulton, Franklin, York, and Cumberland.

**SCC Report** – Karl Brown highlighted items from his written report.

- Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road – Thank you to Districts for efforts related to the close out of the previous 5-year funding agreement.
- Policy for removal of a Director for Misfeasance, Malfeasance or Other Reason – Approved by SCC in September 2019. Shared with CCAP, includes Whistleblower Protection and will be sent to Chief Clerks soon.
- Conservation Excellence Grants – New financial tool for implementation of BMPS. Piloting in Lancaster and York County. 2.5 million available. May look for a Train the Trainer component.
- REAP – Funding increased from 10 to 13 Million. Credit Cap raised and filing status adjustments allowing for joint filing.
- Spotted Lanternfly – Handouts provided.

**PACD TAG Update** – New hire Ana Turosky with the Lebanon Office introduced herself.

**DEP Report** – Karen Books highlighted items from his written report.

- Planning and Conservation Division Chief – Kristina Peacock-Jones introduces as new Chief.
- Chesapeake Bay Program Office Director – Jill Whitcomb has been named as the new Director. Bay contracts are in finalization stage and then will be entered in GreenPort for reimbursement.
- Chapter 102 Program Evaluation – Hoping to begin completing 10-to-15 District Evaluation yearly. Discussion will occur at Fall DEP meetings. Field evaluation was not completed in most recent evaluations. Districts are encouraged to do an internal audit of the program and to log training requests and responses in writing.
- Ag Planning Reimbursement Program – Extended for a third year.
- PAG-01 – Draft published in the PA Bulletin on September 28, 2019.

**NRCS Report** – Denise Coleman and Charlie Hanner highlighted written reports provided.

- RCP – Reminder that districts can apply directly for RCP projects.
- EWP – 89 sites considered from 2018 storms. Primarily projects on private homes and businesses.
- PL-566 Program – Multiple districts will be participating in PL-566 Projects (Legacy Sediment, Flood Prevention, Mushroom Substrate).
- Fall and Winter Training Schedule – Handout provided.

**Adjourned** at 12:40 p.m.