PACD North West Region Meeting
Dawndi’s Restaurant at Lucky Hills Golf Course, Franklin, PA
April 22, 2020

Butler • Clarion • Crawford • Elk • Erie • Forest • Jefferson • Lawrence • McKean • Mercer • Venango • Warren

On behalf of the PACD North West Region, conservation district directors, associate directors, district staff, and agency representatives are cordially invited to attend the PACD Region Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at Dawndi’s Restaurant at Lucky Hills Golf Course, 136 Warren Road, Franklin, PA 16323. PACD thanks the Venango County Conservation District for hosting the meeting at Dawndi’s.

We will not be doing prepayment for lunch for this meeting. Instead Dawndi’s full menu will be available for lunch and separate checks will be provided for all attendees. So that we know how many to expect, please RSVP to Lance Bowes no later than Monday, April 13, at labowes@hughes.net or 814.676.2832.

Please note the 10:00 a.m. start time.

If you have any questions about the meeting, please feel free to contact me at 814.887.3210 or cdlane@mckeancountypa.org.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Cliff Lane

Clifford Lane
North West Region Director
PACD North West Region Meeting
Dawndi’s Restaurant at Lucky Hills Golf Course, Franklin, PA
April 22, 2020

Agenda

10:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions – Cliff Lane, Region Director

10:10 a.m. Set Date for Next Meeting

10:15 a.m. Set Date for Meeting with DEP Deputy Secretary Aneca Atkinson

10:20 a.m. Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

10:25 a.m. PACD Business and Report – Brenda Shambaugh, Executive Director

Items to be considered include a bylaws change to move Armstrong Conservation District from the PACD South West Region to the PACD North West Region and policy encouraging the PA Department of Agriculture and related agencies to develop a delegated agreement with conservation districts to provide funding and authority to battle invasive species.

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
  - To include an explanation of the newly formed Conservation District Advisory Committee (CDAC)
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

1:00 p.m. Activities Conclude
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 Listserv – 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 Listserv 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 programming 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
2020 Spring PACD Region Meetings
Motions for Consideration

Following are the motions for consideration by the membership during the 2020 Spring PACD Region Meetings as of March 1, 2020. Any motions for consideration that arise after March 1, 2020, will be provided separately, either verbally or in writing, during the meeting.

From the PACD Executive Board
The PACD Executive Board passed the following motion during their meeting on January 21, 2020.

*PACD encourages the PA Department of Agriculture and related agencies to develop a delegated agreement with conservation districts to provide funding and authority to battle invasive species.*

From the Armstrong Conservation District
The Armstrong Conservation District board passed a motion to move to the North West PACD region during their meeting on November 20, 2019.

*ACD Resolution – Move to NW PACD Region – It was moved, seconded and passed to move from the PACD SW region to the PACD NW region.*