

PACD Conservation Committee Minutes
Zoom Meeting
January 8, 2021

Welcome and Roll Call

Chairman Josh Longmore called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance: Josh Longmore (Chair), Luzerne CD; John Akers, Bedford CD; Bill Clouser, Clearfield CD; Doug Goodlander, York CD; Daryl Miller, Bradford CD; Jim Coslo, Centre CD; Sherry Dunmire, McKean CD; Adam McClain, Adams CD; Dan Miloser, Chester CD; Carl Goshorn, Cumberland CD; Dave Stoner, Franklin CD; Piper Sherburne, Berks CD.

Guests in Attendance: Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Janet Creegan, Northampton CD; Nancy DiFiore, NRCS; Michele Long, Pike CD; Carrie Richmond, Sullivan CD; Chris Snyder, Juniata CD; Shirley Snyder, Northumberland CD; Jessica Buck, Montgomery CD; Neil Imes, Perry CD; Doug Deutsch, Wyoming CD; Steve Beach, Blair CD; Tyne Blazier, Blair CD; Sally Tengeres, Perry CD; Erica Tomlinson, Tioga CD; John Dryzal, Cambria CD; Eric Jordan, York CD; Tiffany Landis, DEP; Diane Young, PACD; Dean Druckenmiller, Berks CD; Kate Wehler, Elk CD; Jerry Stiles, Lackawanna CD; Wendy McRoberts, Northampton CD; Vincent McCollum, Cumberland CD; Eric Naguski, Dauphin CD; Brian Chalfant, DEP; Stephen Dumm, Blair CD; Heather Wilcox, Warren CD; Nick DiPaolo, Northampton CD; Molly Burns, PACD; Shannon Wehinger (notetaker), PACD.

Minutes of the January 22, 2020 Meeting

The minutes of the January 22, 2020 and the July 7, 2020 meeting were provided for review.

It was moved by Daryl Miller and seconded by Carl Goshorn to approve the minutes of both the January 22, 2020 meeting and the July 7, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

PA Invasive Species Council Report

Piper Sherburne reported on her work with the PA Invasive Species Council to develop a comprehensive statewide Invasive Species program.

How conservation districts can play an integral role was discussed. The program would be a regional program with state oversight through the PA Department of Agriculture (PDA). Could PACD be the grant sponsor and open it up to districts that want to be involved on the local level?



PACD discussed how this may work with PDA. If the program would provide funding for a staff person, PACD's board would consider it. Districts could be hosts regionally with one county being the lead. Funding would be available for education and outreach not just eradication.

Piper is looking for ideas from the membership on how to make the case for conservation districts to be the hosts. Feel free to email Piper with input. It was requested to re-send the survey results to keep the conversation going.

e-Permitting Update

Tiffany Landis, DEP, provided an update on e-Permitting for new NPDES General Permit applications and amendments. E-permitting is tentatively slated to go live on January 25, 2021. An account needs to be created via Greenport by all users. Districts will provide a list of users and their role to DEP. Districts need to assign a manager, reviewer, and clerical person.

It was questioned if a helpdesk phone number would be provided for assistance with the program. There is an email address that can help answer more specific questions.

There is a draft SOP in Clean Water Academy along with draft user guides. This first round of training was this week with IT training on the system and a walkthrough of submission and review by the Bureau of Clean Water. It was recorded and will be uploaded to the Clean Water Academy.

There is a press release is being drafted for an external user training on January 21. Districts will receive information on this and are encouraged to distribute it and attend at least the first session. E-permitting overview and specific topic walkthrough tutorials will be created for external audiences.

PAG-01 Update

Brian Chalfant, DEP, provided an update on PAG-01. They are aiming to have it finalized by spring and published as final at that time.

Potential Grant Opportunities

DEP and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation are discussing a new program of digital training outreach to conservation districts, the public, and regulated community. If approved, the Clean Water Academy would create a green infrastructure and stormwater BMP "training program" for conservation districts, local governments, and MS4 permittees. Priority for new training development would include high level and more robust digital training on the operation and maintenance of green infrastructure and stormwater BMPs, including stream restoration and urban floodplain restoration as specific targets.

The software behind Clean Water Academy can generate detailed training data on course completion and learner performance and may be used to develop and distribute the training. PACD's role will be overall coordination of the grant and management of funds. PACD will also



load and manage eLearning modules and training programs in Clean Water Academy. The proposal would also include a mini-grant program administered by PACD for conservation districts to develop an outreach and community-based marketing strategy to recognize all local governments that have completed this training program.

Adjournment

It was moved by John Akers and seconded by Dave Stoner to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

