

**PACD Conservation Committee
Video Conference Minutes
January 5, 2022**

Welcome and Roll Call

Chairman Josh Longmore welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Committee members in attendance: John Akers, Bedford; Bill Clouser, Clearfield; Sherry Dumire, McKean; David Stoner, Franklin; Daryl Miller, Bradford; Josh Longmore, Luzerne; Carl Goshorn, Cumberland; Piper Sherburne, Berks; Dan Miloser, Chester; Doug Goodlander, York; Adam McClain, Adams; Jim Coslo, Centre

Guests in attendance: Shannon Wehinger, PACD; Karl Brown, SCC; Roy Richardson, SCC; Brenda Shambaugh, PACD; Molly Burns, PACD; Linda Mackey, DEP; Sean Furjanic, DEP; Tabby Shah, Clarion; Kristopher Abell, PDA; Chris Snyder, Juniata; Nancy Corbin, Columbia; Willie Null, Clearfield

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the July 8, 2021, meeting were provided to participants for review.

It was moved by John Akers and seconded by Daryl Miller to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2021, meeting. Motion carried.

PA Invasive Species Council (PISC) Presentation/Discussion

Governor's Invasive Species Council Coordinator Kristopher Abell provided a presentation on invasive species. Highlights included the following:

- The definition of an invasive species as provided by the National Invasive Species Council in 2006, how they migrate, why they are so common, why they are important.
- Why and how PISC was formed via Governor's order, and the purpose of the council.
- Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) Programs allow for regional funding, coordination, and collaboration of stakeholder groups.
- Examples of PRISMs, who participates, and what they do, from surveying and mapping to education and outreach and organizing events and volunteers.
- Accomplishments from a 2018 report from the Lower Hudson PRISM in New York.
- A flowchart of how PA plans to establish PRISMS, as well as partnership roles. They plan to arrange by PACD regions to take advantage of the existing structure.
- The PRISM needs support to become a reality. PISC recently worked with the Center for Rural PA to hold a legislative hearing to explain PRISMS and their value to PA.
- More information is available on the PISC website. They also have a newsletter and a hotline to report invasives.



- https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/GISC/Pages/default.aspx
- The council is hoping conservation districts will be a strong partner in the program and consider hosting on a regional level to receive funding to hire staff and fund projects.

PAG-01 Training

DEP Environmental Program Manager Sean Furjanic provided a report on PAG-01 training. Highlights included the following:

- The PAG01 permit, for certain earth disturbance activities less than five acres, will go live in March.
- This permit would be appropriate for agricultural operations that want to conserve farmland, rather than committing acres into large retention basins, for example. Projects must meet specific criteria to be eligible for the simplified permit process.
- DEP has developed a comprehensive six-module training program in the Clean Water Academy. Staff will have a month to complete the modules and submit questions through the CWA before the Q&A session on February 10.
- Technical staff should complete all six modules.
- The first five modules will also be open to the public and regulated community, so they can learn about the permit.
- The final module, on the SOP, is for internal (DEP and district) use only. This course should be mandatory for all staff involved with the program, including administrative staff who process checks, etc.
- Staff should sign up for the Q&A session. Nick Yeagy with PACD will be sending out the registration information.
- Participants who complete all six modules will be able to obtain a certificate to go towards professional development hours.

Proposed Changes to Stream Crossing Policy, Stream Crossing Replacement Standard, and Stream Crossing Technical Manual

Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road (DGLVR) Program Manager Roy Richardson provided a presentation on proposed changes to the DGLVR stream crossing policy, replacement standard, and technical manual. Highlights included the following:

- The program's historical stream crossing activity and the original policy and guidance
- Examples of projects that would have benefitted from the new requirements
- Issues they encountered that drove development of the new policy, standards, and manual
- The new policy requires more conservation district involvement in project implementation
- Districts will be required to take stream crossing training, which is under development
- The new standard, which provides exemptions for smaller channels or special circumstances, such as a small spring seep or a steep channel with natural AOP barriers
- A general overview of the technical manual, a large document that is organized chronologically from the beginning to the end of a project, and acts as a learning document for districts and a reference for engineers
- An overview of the policy development process
- Proposed policy is out for review and comment through the end of January
- Districts are asked to provide feedback on the proposed changes

- They have not received any written comments so far (Brenda Shambaugh reported PACD has offered to gather comments from districts to submit to the SCC)
- Throughout January and February 2022 they will review comments and make final edits
- They will likely seek approval from the SCC in March or May 2022
- The earliest it will be implemented will be July 2022.

Adjournment

It was moved by Doug Goodlander and seconded by Bill Clouser to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.