

PACD District Employees Committee
Ramada Conference Center, State College, PA
January 16, 2008

Chair: Don McNutt, Lancaster Conservation District

Welcome – Don McNutt

Committee Chair Don McNutt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Committee Members in Attendance

Don McNutt, Lancaster
Rich Kadwill, Montgomery
Larry Kehl, Berks
Greg Phillips, Westmoreland
Lynn Sandieson, Crawford
Gary Stokum, Washington
Robert Sweitzer, Centre
Wayne Sweitzer, York
Ernie Tarner, Franklin
Deb Wilson, Jefferson

Other in Attendance:

Susan Marquart, PACD
Molly Burns, PACD (Recorder)
John Torok, Potter
Dan Greig, Chester
John Orr, Dauphin
Gerald Breininger, Lehigh
Paul Sell, Lehigh
Bill Zett, DEP
Gary Smith, NRCS
Lillian Theophanis, Susquehanna
Charles Wertz, Lebanon
Mark Rickard, Venango
Earl Brown, Erie
Chris Thompson, York
Shane Kleiner, DEP

Minutes of Previous Meeting – July 16, 2007

The minutes from the July 16, 2007, meeting were provided to the committee members for their review.

It was moved by Lynn Sandieson and seconded by Larry Kehl to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Survey of conservation district staff salaries and benefits

Don McNutt reported that this project was larger and more complicated than he had anticipated and that, because of format variations in the data that was submitted, it was difficult to compare ‘apples to apples.’ Because of this, the raw data was disseminated via e-mail (with county names removed) rather than a distilled version being provided in hard-copy as was originally intended. Don said that this will be something to take into account as part of the data-gathering process if the committee decides to tackle this again in future years.

Conservation District Staff Training Coordination Steering Committee

Susan Marquart reported that the new format for the PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference in 2008 is a direct result of the Training Coordination Steering Committee, which identified training needs that could be addressed through the conference, which were not being addressed through other training opportunities. Susan reported that many members of the steering committee are assisting in planning the conference, and expressed thanks to those people for helping to put together the training agenda.

Election of NACDE Representative

Dan Greig, former NACDE Representative, reported that any district employee can serve in this capacity. He said that there are generally two meetings annually, usually in southcentral and/or southwest New York State, and that most other correspondence throughout the year is taken care of via e-mail. In addition, the representative is responsible for acting as liaison between the NACDE and the districts by forwarding pertinent information to the districts. Dan noted that a representative from northeastern Pennsylvania would have reduced travel time to the New York meetings, though it is in no way necessary that the representative be from that area. In addition, Dan added that this would be a beneficial role for a newer district manager, as there are many opportunities to network and learn.

It was moved by Larry Kehl and seconded by Bob Sweitzer that Don McNutt work to recruit district employees for the NACDE representative position. Motion carried.

The committee suggested that Don see if Charlotte Severcool (Wyoming), Bob Muller (Wayne), Josh Longmore (Luzerne), or Jim Garner (Susquehanna) are interested in the position

Field Safety Training

Rich Kadwill suggested that the committee consider supporting mandatory field safety training for new conservation district field technicians. The committee also discussed the fact that building emergency plans and office safety are also becoming more and more important. As an additional incentive, safety training in the office and the field can reduce insurance rates. Molly Burns with PACD reported that the 2008 PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference planning committee is looking into offering field safety training for E&S Technicians during the conference in July.

Adjournment

It was moved by Larry Kehl and seconded by Bob Sweitzer to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm