

## MEETING MINUTES

### North East Region Meeting February 15, 2005 from 9:00am - 1:30pm at the Susquehanna County Office Building, Montrose, PA

**ATTENDANCE:** Scott Savini, Kate Crowley, Randal Mortimore, Robert Frymoyer, Susan Marquart, Jean Castrogiovanni, Charlotte Severcool, Bob Robinson, Molly Philbin, Karl Dymond, Vic Cappucci, Ed Zygmunt, Jim Garner, Walter Chamberlain, Ron Williams, Risa Stevens-Andrews, Rob Andrews, Ed Sanders, Peter Tarby, Carl Urbanski, Paul Lohin, Bob Muller, Pete Snyder, Jim Clauser, Bruce Baessler, Ernie Keller, Connie Organisciak.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Robert Robinson welcomed all present and attendees introduced themselves.

**PACD 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT:** Vic Cappucci thanked all for attending and reported that in the future, Regional Directors will have more responsibility than in the past. For this reason, he asked for more support from District Directors to District Managers. Legislators also need to be educated as to conservation district programs.

**SUSQUEHANNA CO. CD PRESENTATION:** Jim Garner, Susquehanna Conservation District Manager, gave a presentation on some unique aspects of Susquehanna County.

**PACD EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:** Susan Fox Marquart briefed us on the Governor's budget, DEP and PDA received significant cuts. PACD is trying to get an increase in Dirt and Gravel Roads Program funding, keep in touch with local legislators; District Dues workgroup surveyed districts and found the current practice of using county classifications for assessing dues was the most popular; District Director List Serve is growing. Sign-up forms were sent to Districts to gather Director and Associate Director email addresses; PACD surveyed Districts to score products and services. Mini-grants, workshops and training were the most popular items; Additional funding has been received to expand the PACD Engineering Assistance Program to include comprehensive nutrient management planning. Please send support letter for the PACD Growing Greener application to the PACD office by Feb. 28, 2005; A draft budget will be presented at the PACD Executive Council March meeting, final approval will take place at the annual meeting in July; Committee is working on draft of revised bylaws to present at Executive Council in March; Guest speaker at the PACD Legislative Conference will be Secretary Steve Crawford, Legislative Affairs.

### **BREAK**

**SCC REPORT, (Conference Call):** Karl Brown, State Conservation Commission Executive Secretary spoke to those present about the following: Conservation District Director Nominations - Keep nominating organization issue in front of the County Commissioners and Chief Clerk. Outlined key questions regarding your nominating

organizations: Leadership Development Team Visits are Available - contact Mike Lovegreen to schedule a visit or for more information; Odors and Regulated Air Emissions in PA Agriculture Conference will be held June 9 & 10, 2005 at the Hotel Carlisle; The 2005 Agricultural Summit - Nutrient Management: A Balancing Act - Summit is scheduled for March 23 & 24, 2005 at the Holiday Inn, Harrisburg/Hershey; New Commission Members Appointed; DEP is reviewing Chapter 102 and 105. Please participate in roundtables and provide comments to streamline these programs; D&G Road Program changes include requirement to train QAB, administrator and municipalities if they haven't had training within the last 5 years; Mr. Brown discussed the issue of prevailing wage and how it applies to conservation districts and their programs. Questions were asked to clarify this concern.

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE INFO UPDATE:** Robert Frymoyer and Randal Mortimore spoke to us of the survey sent to all conservation districts. Sixty-four out of 66 districts responded. There was strong interest in the SE counties to administer these surveys, not only to districts but to township associations and county planning commissions. Their goal is to determine if the infrastructure is adequate. The Committee will make recommendations to legislators and sponsors.

**PENN STATE EXTENSION INFORMATION:** Molly Philbin did a presentation on Earth Boxes.

**HOW IS YOUR DISTRICT VALUED?:** Karl Dymond presented a power point program with ideas on how to present your district.

**DISTRICT EXCHANGE:** Each District represented, gave a brief report.

**NRCS UPDATE:** Edward Sanders gave updates on the following: Farm Bill - EQIP awarding of contracts; CREP-very active; Conservation Security Program; training for new computers with customer service tool-kit, will begin next week; budget update.

**PACD BYLAW REVISIONS:** Susan Marquart handed out bylaw committee revisions and explained each recommendation.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

March 14-16, 2005 - Legislative Conference/Harrisburg

July 24-27, 2005 - Joint Annual Conference/Erie

March 16, 2005 - Regional Contractors' Workshop/Keystone College

Regional Meeting - October 2005

Bob Robinson thanked Susquehanna County for hosting this event and for all who attended.