

## MEETING MINUTES

### PA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS SOUTHEAST REGIONAL MEETING FRANCONIA HERITAGE RESTAURANT SEPTEMBER 23, 2005

- Regional Director Harold Kulp called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.
- Harold welcomed attendees and asked each to introduce themselves
- Victor Cappucci, President PACD, offered comments, primarily stating that he would like to see more District Director involvement at the Regional levels. He's encouraging the involvement of a Director and Staff member from each District throughout the state.
- Harold introduced Karen Ely, PA DEP SE Regional Office Field Representative.
- Motion to approve the January 21, 2005 Minutes was made by Drew Gilchrist, seconded by Cheryl Tumola; Minutes were approved on duly passed motion.

I. Karl Brown, SCC Executive Secretary, handed out a document highlighting SCC activities:

A. Spoke about the Nutrient Management Regulations, which currently propose 29 changes. Largest change addresses phosphorous indexing.

B. Integral Nutrient Management Reg. changes include setback distances from streams and field storage of manure handling.

C. New regulations will require more work for District Technicians. The SCC has reviewed the additional workload and re-adjusted the allocations for Districts.

D. Spoke about Act 38 and, specifically, Manure Application Setbacks, Buffers and Odor Provisions. All CAO and CAFO permittees will be subject to the new 35' stream setbacks effective January 6, 2006.

E. Act 38 will require the development of an odor management plan for housing of livestock.

F. Addressed the changes, which will impact Local Regulations, which are included in Chapter 3 of Act 38. Allows agriculture operators to utilize the services of the State Attorney General, if local government adopts ordinances, which appear to be unauthorized or illegal.

G. Spoke about PDA's efforts to implement measures of Act 49 (2004) concerning certification of manure haulers and brokers.

H. Spoke about "Seeds of Change" and comments being received by the Governor to use for advocacy on behalf of PA for the 2007 Farm Bill. PA farmers receive a

substantially less amount of Farm Bill funding when compared to farmers in the Midwest.

I. Director Nomination letters have gone to all County Chief Clerks to initiate the nominating process for Directors for 2006.

J. Spoke about the compositions of District Boards and how the recomposition of the Board should be approved by the SCC. Discussed potential changes of Board corporations as related to land uses within respective counties; i.e., urban vs. agriculture.

K. Ombudsman program continues to function as a liaison between local municipalities and the agricultural industry.

L. Dirt and Gravel Road Program annual allocation checks have been sent to the Districts.

M. Spoke about Conservation planning backlogs. NRCS has priorities focused on Farm bill activities and cannot devote resources to non-Farm bill activities; i.e., agricultural land preservation programs and general Conservation District plan development.

## II. Susan Marquart, Executive Director, PACD

A. PACD approved an appropriation request for the legislature for Fiscal Year 2006/2007. Requests have been sent to PA Department of Agriculture and PA DEP. FY 2006/2007 Budget will be released in February of 2006.

B. Susan testified at a joint hearing of legislative bodies, on behalf of the Districts, concerning the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy.

C. PACD is working on the PEACCE Program, and is working on creating the PEACCE Program as an independent entity/corporation whose mission is to promote the use of agriculture practices that promote environmental stewardship and to recognize the farmers who practice good stewardship.

D. Growing Greener II (GGII) provides for County Commissioners to prioritize GGII projects within their respective counties. Projects must be related to "physical projects".

E. PACD bylaws have been revised and now include an Executive Board consisting of all officers and the seven Regional Directors. Monthly Executive Board teleconferences are being held.

F. The Act 215 Conservation District Law Committee has been revitalized. The Committee wrote a report in 2000, which will be revisited and updated. Larry Kehl is chairing the Committee.

G. The Executive Board has created six committees from the former eleven committees, and appointed chairs for each committee. Susan briefed attendees on primary functions of all six committees.

H. The CREP program has become a little more complicated. All questions from producers should be directed to local FSA offices.

I. Meeting schedules for PACD have changed. Regional meetings in spring and fall; PACD meeting in January and July.

### III. Election of SE PACD Regional Director - Victor Cappucci

A. Victor explained the new function of Regional Directors so they are now part of the Executive Board. Called for roll call.

1. Berks County - Larry Kehl
2. Bucks County - Malcolm Hooks
3. Delaware - Cheryl Tumola
4. Chester - Ineligible to vote due to lack of quorum
5. Montgomery County - Andrew Gilchrist
6. Lehigh County - Ineligible to vote
7. Northampton County - Bruce Pysner

Five counties eligible to vote; quorum present.

Nominations for Regional Director - Larry Kehl (Berks County) nominated Harold Kulp, Andrew Gilchrist (Montgomery County) seconded; vote was unanimous for Harold Kulp to be Regional Director for second term.

### IV. PACD SE Regional Committee Nominations

#### Legislative - Directors

Gerald Breininger - Lehigh

Harold Kulp - Chester

Malcolm Crooks - Bucks

#### Legislative - District Staff

Paul Sell - Lehigh

#### Education & Outreach - Directors

Cathy Skwara- Bucks

E & O Staff

Lyn O'Hare

Ways & Means - Directors

None

E & O Staff

John Schueller - Berks

District Employees - Directors

Larry Kehl - Berks

District Employees - Staff

Dan Greig - Chester

Rich Kadwill - Montgomery

Conservation - Directors

Glenn Seidel - Berks

Clyde Hunt - Delaware

Gerald Breininger - Lehigh

Conservation - Staff

John Thomas - Bucks

Ed McGargee - Delaware

Operations - Directors

Piper Sherburne - Berks

Andrew Gilchrist - Montgomery

Malcolm Crooks - Bucks

Operations - District Staff

John Ravert - Berks

V. Karl Brown - speaking for Steve Taglang, PA DEP - "What If Papers".

Prepared by the Leadership Development Committee. Spoke about the "What If Papers" and specifically; "What If...You're Thinking About Going It Alone."

Many questions and issues have already been addressed by other Conservation Districts and are useful for Conservation Districts facing this particular issue.

VI. John Metrick - SE RC&D Coordinator

A. Spoke about the stream signage program. Additional funds are available and public relations have expanded request for continuing the program.

B. Removed a dam from Ridley Creek in Delaware County.

- C. SE Conservation Districts developing a revised Erosion & Sediment directory.
- D. Submitting a pilot study proposal to William Penn Foundation to assist smaller communities subject to the MS-4 NPDES permits.
- E. Dry fire hydrant program continues. Received 5 recent calls about installing additional hydrants.
- F. Looking into applying for funding for BMP implementation on equine operations.

VII. Jim Newbold - SE Region PA DEP Watershed Management Program (WMP) Manager.

- A. PA has been committed to a watershed approach. However the department structure was based on programs, rather than on watersheds.
- B. Now focusing on watershed approach. In SE major impairment to watershed is stormwater and urbanized runoff.
- C. Attempted this earlier, with a "Team Approach", which was not effective.
- D. Sec. McGinty requested a new program and The Watershed Management Program was created. Central Office also changed structure, with Stu Gansell directing the efforts.
- E. The Watershed Management Program is structured on a six-step process and relies on local stewardship. First step involves assessment and concludes with evaluation.

VIII. William Zollers - Regional Director PDA

- A. Thanked Districts which helped get ACRE program and Growing Greener II through the legislative process.
- B. PDA budget passed with same funding as last year for Conservation District support.
- C. Agriculture continues to grow in Pennsylvania.

IX. Conservation District Highlights

- A. Berks - Pilot Program Update

B. Bucks - John Thomas back as Manager. Looking for diversity of programming and many good things on horizon.

C. Chester - Farm house program for relocating office is on hold. Looking for another location to move offices.

D. Delaware - Watershed Specialist active in "Tree Vitalize" program; planting trees along streams. Delaware County received NOV for non-compliance with MS-4 permits. Opportunity to teach local municipalities. Delaware County - Penn Crest High School won North American Envirothon.

E. Lehigh - Added fourth E&S Technician and expanded in the Ag Center to accommodate and house staff in one section of building.

F. Montgomery - Down one technician position and have a Coastal Zone position available.

G. Northampton - Attempting to add another technician position. Have hired a Watershed Specialist. Holding a Legislative brunch in near future to focus on Legislative Budget and Finance Co. Report on Conservation Districts.

Next meeting date - March 3, 2006 in Franconia.

Acting Recording Secretary  
John Ravert