

# PACD South West Region Meeting Minutes

The South West Region Meeting was held at the Westmoreland County Conservation District on March 25th, 2008. Bob Ritchey Region Director opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. Six Counties were in attendance however voter poll reflected that we did not have a quorum.

**In attendance:** John Thatcher----Allegheny  
Jerry Longwell---Armstrong  
Bill Schall-----Armstrong  
Rob Piper-----Cambria  
Bob Ritchey-----Cambria  
Karen Ely-----DEP  
Chuck Kubasik---DEP  
Jim Resh-----Indiana  
Leroy Vatter-----Indiana  
Tom Sierizega----NRCS  
Susan Marquart---PACD  
Karl Brown-----SCC  
Irvil Kear-----Schuykill  
Len Lichvar-----Somerset  
Jack Tressler-----Somerset  
Albert Barnett-----Westmoreland  
Greg Phillips-----Westmoreland  
Ron Rohall-----Westmoreland

Meeting proceeded with Information Exchange and Issues portion of the agenda.

## **Information Exchange**

Ron Rohall and Rob Piper addressed the PSU Extension educator position vacancy. Position covers nine (9) counties based in Cambria County. Westmoreland County sent a letter to PSU to have position filled. Ron Rohall Westmoreland indicated that SMCRA public meetings reflected that the Public want the DEP to accept the 30 % set aside monies. DEP has not taken any action on this as of this date. WPCAMR Bruce Golden addresses this issue on their Web Site. Bill Schall asked who decided to charge \$30.00 registration fee for Executive Council Meeting. Ron Rohall explained this fee is needed to cover cost of rooms and administrative costs to conduct the meeting. Bob Ritchey inquired as to feasibility of contacting the PBS Television stations to assist PACD in marketing Conservation Districts. Greg Phillips, Westmoreland County is interested in working on the energy conservation program, Susan will ask Brenda to call him.

## **PACD Report**

Susan Marquart provided a written report which she verbally reported from. Areas covered included Budgeting, Funding, Senate Bill 1020, PACD marketing Project, PACD

awards, PACD Capitol Day, and the new format for the July 2008 PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference.

### **SCC Report**

Karl Brown gave the SCC report he reported that SCC has filled there vacancy and is now up to full strength. SCC will continue to address all conservation issues in the state.

### **NRCS Report**

Tom Sierizega provided a written report he discussed Current Events, Programs Update, Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP), Training, and the 2008 Budget and Farm Bill.

### **DEP Report**

Chuck Kubasik provided a written report and highlighted on the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) offering of a free workshop “Understanding Land Preservation and Conservation Easements”. Workshop dates and location are, Tuesday April 22 at the Mercer County Penn State Cooperative Extension Office, 463 North Perry Hwy., Mercer (just north of Mercer on Rt. 19); and Tuesday, April 29 at the Rustic Lodge, 2199 Oakland Ave. Indiana.

### **Leadership Development**

Susan Marquart and Karen Ely provided Leadership development training on the subject Understanding Director Responsibilities.

The fall meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> of October at the Westmoreland Conservation District Barn details will be provided later.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Bob Ritchey SW Regional Director